PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
28 April 2008—16 May 2008

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FINANCIAL CONTROLLER—Julia Routledge
CORPORATE ACCOUNTANT—Debra Shirtcliffe
SYSTEMS ACCOUNTANT—Vacancy

Business Management Directorate—

DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS MANAGER—Andy Vallins
PROJECT DIRECTOR—Colin Cornish
HR AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (DEO)—Tara Cullen

DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER—Martin Trott
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER—Liz Crotty
SPECIAL ADVISER MEMBER RELATIONS—Paul Silk
HEAD OF FINANCE—Philip Collins
HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND DEO—Johan van den Broek
Client Relations Section—
HEAD OF CLIENT RELATIONS—Ruby Beech
EVENTS TEAM LEADER—Jon Greenhalgh
CLOCK TOURS ADMINISTRATOR—Amanda Leck
POSTMASTER—Mark Morrish

Parliamentary Estates Directorate—

PARLIAMENTARY DIRECTOR OF ESTATES—Mel Barlex, BSc, MCR, MRICS, MBIFM
DIRECTOR OF ESTATES—Jonathan Prew, BSc, CEng, MICE, MIStructE, MAPM (Acting)
PROJECT SPONSORS—Martin Wittekind, Adam Watrobski, BA, DipArch, DiplConsAA, RIBA, George Manson, BEng, MIMech.E, MCIBSE
FIRE SAFETY MANAGER—David Kaye, GIFireE
HEAD OF SECRETARIAT—David Jones, BEng, CEng, MIEE
PROJECT ASSISTANT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY DIRECTOR OF ESTATES—John Patterson
DIRECTOR OF WORKS SERVICES—Andy Makepeace, OBE (Acting)
WORKS MANAGER—Lester Benjamin, BEng, CEng, MCIBS
FURNISHING MANAGER—Graham Goode, MBE

Catering and Retail Services—

DIRECTOR OF CATERING AND RETAIL SERVICES—Sue Harrison
EXECUTIVE CHEF—Mark Hill
OPERATIONS MANAGER, PALACE OF WESTMINSTER—Robert Gibbs
CATERING MANAGER, TERRACE COMPLEX—Abigail Richmond
RESTAURANT AND BARS MANAGER, PALACE OF WESTMINSTER—Ginny Borthwick
BANQUETING MANAGER—Christian Purser
ASSISTANT CATERING MANAGER, PRESS COMPLEX—Akua Mensah
OPERATIONS MANAGER, OUTBUILDINGS—Della Herd
CATERING MANAGER, PORTCULLIS HOUSE—Andrew Buckmaster
CATERING MANAGER, 1 PARLIAMENT STREET—Vacancy
CATERING MANAGER, 7 MILLBANK—Nelly Chalil (Acting)
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER—Janet Rissen
FINANCE MANAGER—Caroline Young
PURCHASING MANAGER—Antony Avella

Accommodation Services—

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ACCOMMODATION MANAGER—Fiona Channon
HEAD OFFICE KEEPER—Brendon Mulvihill
SENIOR OFFICE KEEPERS—Doreen Irving, Noel Kirby, Les Stockwell
CLEANING MANAGER—Carol Hill

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DIRECTOR OF PICT—Joan Miller
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND MEMBER SERVICES—Matthew Taylor
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES—Richard Ware
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY—Innis Montgomery
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT—Nicola Woods
CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER—Steve Judd
MEMBERS' COMPUTING OFFICER (COMMONS)—Peter Beasley
MEMBERS' COMPUTING OFFICER (LORDS)—Loraine Midda
TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGER—Caroline Robertson

OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

CLERK OF THE CROWN IN CHANCERY—Sir Suma Chakrabarti, KCB
COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL—Tim Burr
PARLIAMENTARY AND HEALTH SERVICE OMBUDSMAN—Ann Abraham

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 28 April 2008

HEALTH

EU Health Ministers

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The informal meeting of European Union Health Ministers took place on 17 and 18 April in Brdo, Slovenia. I represented the UK. Items on the agenda were: reducing the burden of cancer; information on the conclusions of the third European conference on alcohol policies; implementation of the EU health strategy; and antimicrobial resistance.

On reducing the burden of cancer, the European Commission noted that a report on the implementation of the 2003 Council recommendation on cancer screening was nearly finalised: this would say that there was still some way to go before the recommendation was fully implemented. Potential areas for future action on cancer included: work on screening; collecting comparable health information and data on the cancer burden; and sharing best practice. A 2009 Commission action plan on cancer would cover these. I emphasised the value of high quality EU level data and combining resources on cancer research. Belgium and Denmark agreed with the UK that greater co-operation on research would add real value at EU level.

On alcohol, the presidency noted that a recent conference, "Building Capacity for Action" had taken place in Barcelona on 2 to 4 April. Sweden then emphasised that alcohol-related harm and ill health would be a key theme of their presidency (during the second half of 2009) and that they would place a special emphasis on examining commercial communications and advertising.

On the implementation mechanism for the EU health strategy, the presidency introduced their proposal for revising the mandate of the senior level working party on health. The presidency proposal received wide-ranging support from member states, including France, Germany, Portugal, Austria, Denmark and Malta. I also emphasised that the "health in all policies" approach proposed in the strategy and the focus on health inequalities meant that the Council needed to take an interest in the work of other Commission Directorate-Generals, as well as DG SANCO.

On antimicrobial resistance, the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) gave a presentation on the growing problem and burden of this health issue. The ECDC also highlighted the increasing problem of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, concluding that better implementation of the 2001 Council recommendation was needed. France indicated that they would carry on work on antimicrobial resistance during its presidency.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Anthony Leon Peart

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): On 22 November, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garstang (Maria Eagle) and I invited HM chief inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service, HM chief inspector of constabulary, HM chief inspector of courts administration and HM chief inspector of prisons jointly to undertake a review into the circumstances which led to Anthony Leon Peart being at liberty on 29 July 2005, when Richard Whelan was fatally stabbed by him.

Richard Whelan was unlawfully killed on the day that Peart had been released from Forest Bank prison—a privately run prison—in Pendlebury, Greater Manchester. At the time of his release there was a warrant outstanding from Liverpool Crown court for his immediate arrest.

I have today placed a copy of the report of the review in the Library of both Houses and published it on the Attorney-General's office website.

The Government very much regret the death of Richard Whelan and thank the chief inspectors for their work, and we are determined to learn lessons from this.

The report makes clear there was nothing in this individual's offending history that would have suggested him to be capable of the extreme, spontaneous violence that took place on 29 July 2005 and which resulted in the death of Richard Whelan. However, the report makes clear that agencies in the criminal justice system must work together more closely to address the more general issues identified in the review, including the management of accused persons whilst on bail.

The report makes a number of detailed recommendations, most of which the Government are able to accept immediately. The CPS—Crown Prosecution Service—has revised its legal guidance to prosecutors on post-conviction bail, as recommended. The Government are reviewing bail and murder and will issue a consultation paper shortly. A cross-agency working group has been convened and will be responsible for taking forward the detailed work, and a further statement on progress will be made in due course.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 29 April 2008

DEFENCE

Kosovo Operational Reserve Force Deployment

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The House will recall that on 17 February 2008 the Government of Kosovo declared independence, with a commitment to implementing the obligations contained in UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari's comprehensive proposal for a status settlement in Kosovo. Since independence, there have been positive developments by the Kosovo Government in meeting these obligations, including the approval of a new constitution, which will come into force in June 2008. The EU and NATO have also made progress in preparing to assume their responsibilities under the Ahtisaari proposals, including the European security and defence policy, policing and rule of law mission in Kosovo and the implementation of NATO's new tasks in relation to Kosovo's own security forces.

During this period, the security situation has remained tense and there have been some sporadic incidents of violence. The NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR), in co-operation with the UN international police authorities, are working hard to address this and to maintain a safe and secure environment.

Against this background, the UK has received a request from NATO for the deployment of a UK battalion to Kosovo by the end of May as part of our existing commitment to the NATO/EU shared pan-Balkans operational reserve force (ORF). This is a long standing commitment that the UK meets in rotation with Italy and Germany. Since 1 January this year, it has been the UK's turn to provide the highest readiness battalion for a period of six months. We are, therefore, well prepared to meet NATO's request and I have agreed to deploy our ORF battalion until 30 June 2008. The task will be undertaken by 2nd Battalion, The Rifles, who have been trained specifically for this requirement.

This deployment will demonstrate our commitment to the security of the region and will provide NATO with extra flexibility in maintaining peace and stability for all communities within Kosovo. The House will also wish to be aware that our commitment to the NATO/EU pan-Balkans ORF continues until the end of this year at a lower readiness.

I would like to stress that the deployment of the UK ORF battalion confirms yet again the professionalism of our armed forces and their ability to provide essential military support at short notice. I shall make a further statement on this deployment in due course, if required.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Rabies Incident

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I would like to update the House on the case of rabies in a puppy in UK quarantine confirmed last Friday evening, 25 April.

Over three successive days, thirteen dogs of various ages were brought into quarantine under UK rabies quarantine licensing rules from Sri Lanka by an animal rescue charity. The dogs were not in good health when they arrived and were receiving appropriate veterinary treatment at the quarantine facility. The condition of one of the dogs, a puppy, worsened and it died on the morning of 25 April. It was immediately sent for routine testing at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge. The acting chief veterinary officer then confirmed on the evening of 25 April a case of rabies in this puppy.

The case was confined to quarantine, which means that the movement of the puppy after arrival in the country was fully controlled and any public health risks were effectively contained. Nevertheless, our contingency plans for such an occurrence were immediately activated and a thorough investigation instigated. Since rabies is a public health issue, the Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency also immediately mobilised their emergency arrangements.

DEFRA and the Health Protection Agency worked closely to identify all human and animal contacts with this puppy.

Health officials identified that two individuals working at the quarantine facility and one member of the charity that imported the affected animal, were bitten by the puppy; all three have received prompt protective treatment. Even if someone has been bitten by an animal with rabies, prompt post-exposure treatment is highly effective in preventing rabies in humans. There is no such validated treatment for animals similarly exposed.

Whilst we are not aware of anyone else who has been bitten, as a precautionary measure we have also been tracing any other people who have been in contact with the puppy since its arrival in the country. Where advisable appropriate treatment has been given.

Four dogs entered the UK with the animal that died of rabies. These animals were humanely destroyed as they had been in direct contact with the animal that died of rabies and were considered to be high risk. Tests for rabies are being carried out on these animals. Initial test results are negative and indicate these animals were not in the later stages of rabies. Further tests are ongoing and results are expected before the end of the week.

The quarantine facility where these five animals were housed, and where the remaining eight dogs from Sri Lanka continue to be housed, is under restriction for the time being.

We also identified that four animals were released from the facility when they had completed their quarantine period after the dogs arrived from Sri Lanka. Three of these four animals were vaccinated on

entry to UK quarantine in accordance with standard requirements, while the fourth had been in quarantine as a holding measure until it was shown to have been compliant with normal conditions of entry under the Pet Travel Scheme. These conditions require effective vaccination before entry to the UK. The level of risk associated with these animals is negligible. However, as a precautionary measure, all four of these animals have been confined to their home premises for the time being. Animal Health Agency vets are visiting these animals daily and providing the owners with advice. These animals continue to be healthy. The Health Protection Agency is content with the measures being taken and has provided advice on public health aspects to the owners.

The case occurred in quarantine and has not therefore jeopardised our important and long-standing rabies freedom in the UK. This incident particularly demonstrates the importance of following strictly the rules for entry of animals into this country and the rest of the European Union.

UK citizens travelling abroad should avoid handling stray animals, and if they are bitten should seek immediate medical treatment.

This incident shows the effectiveness of the Government's emergency arrangements and the commitment of those who worked hard together over the weekend to respond.

EU Environment Ministers Meeting

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): On 11 to 13 April, Peter Unwin, Director General of Defra's Natural Environment Group, represented the UK at a meeting of Environment Ministers from the EU member states, candidate countries, and the European Commission at an informal ministerial meeting in Brdo, Slovenia, on the theme of "Forest Biodiversity: Challenges and Opportunities for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation".

The UK emphasised that climate change and biodiversity are intrinsically linked. Healthy and sustainably managed forests represent a valuable opportunity for mitigation in the fight against climate change, through the provision of vital environmental services. The UK welcomed the presidency's focus on this issue in the wider context of adaptation to climate change. We also underlined the need for greater synergy and consistency between climate change and biodiversity policies both internationally and at home in the EU if we are to secure co-benefits. As such, next month's meeting on the convention on biological diversity (CBD), the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy and the upcoming Commission communication on green public procurement all provide opportunities to do this.

The UK stressed that in the battle to tackle dangerous climate change, EU member states need to ensure that increased utilisation of wood for energy does not move us away from multi-purpose forest management; this is possible if done within the context of sustainable forest management. The UK also emphasised that biofuels, in particular second-generation fuels, can play an important role in reducing emissions but Member States need to ensure that biofuel targets can be achieved without adversely affective sustainability. There are growing concerns and emerging evidence of the negative impacts of biofuels and these must be taken into account before we agree the direction and level of EU policy. The UK informed Ministers of our review on these issues and that this will inform our national and EU policy. The UK welcomed the fact that the CBD is looking at the potential impacts of biofuels on biodiversity, and seeking to develop biodiversity criteria to input into more general sustainability criteria.

Finally, the UK expressed the view that the EU should ensure a level playing field for domestic and international producers, and we should offer capacity building measures to help developing countries comply with our sustainability criteria, once these have been developed, in order to prevent them from being a technical barrier to trade. The UK confirmed that we will continue to work with the Commission and other member states to reflect these principles in a consistent way as we take forward the renewable energy and fuel quality directives, and we shall do so with an open mind, informed be the evidence as it emerges. Several other member states shared this view.

Callaghan Review

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I announced on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 52WS, that the Government have accepted all of the recommendations of the review of the regulatory framework for handling animal pathogens led by Sir Bill Callaghan. That review recommended a phased approach to changes in the regulation of these materials, including transferring responsibility for inspections and enforcement to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Since January, inspections of laboratories licensed under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) have been carried out by DEFRA and the VLA and HSE. I informed the House on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 9WS, that the formal legal transfer of SAPO inspection and enforcement responsibilities was nearing completion. I am pleased to now report that a revised SAPO came into effect on 28 April, meeting the timetable set by the review. This measure provides the legal means to effect the transfer of inspection and enforcement responsibility to HSE. It also provides additional powers very similar to the powers HSE inspectors have under the Health and Safety at Work Act, including the ability to issue formal improvement and prohibition notices. The order is complemented by an agency agreement which formally delegates enforcement responsibility to HSE and a memorandum of understanding that sets out the practical arrangements. These documents are being published on the HSE and DEFRA websites .

From now on, HSE will carry out all inspections and enforcement activity for SAPO. This work will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive's enforcement policy and principles of HSE operational procedures and its enforcement management model. This represents a significant change in the way in which this work is carried out. As recognised in Sir Bill Callaghan's review, DEFRA will remain as the licensing body for SAPO until the next phase comes into effect.

DEFRA will continue to work closely with HSE and other interested Departments as we move towards a

single regulatory framework for human and animal pathogens in the final phase of implementing the recommendations.

In addition to the processes set out here responsibility for managing risks lies with the employers and senior management of any facility where work on animal or human pathogens is being carried out. Licence holders are responsible for ensuring the safe operation of the facilities where their work is conducted, in accordance with the licensing requirements.

I note that the report of Professor Sir John Beringer's independent study into the funding, governance and risk management at the Institute for Animal Health has been published and has been considered by the BBSRC. I will take the recommendations of this study into account in considering how we respond to Dr. Iain Anderson's report on a review and lessons learnt on the foot and mouth disease outbreak 2007.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Correction to Oral Answer

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown has made the following written ministerial statement:

On 18 March 2008, during the debate on the Second Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), in response to a question by the noble Lord Walton of Detchant, I said that—

"it is certainly correct that there are toxic chemicals that fall outside the so-called schedule 1 to this convention. One of the issues for review and for any successor convention after 2012 will be to make sure that there is a more comprehensive list of such chemicals".—*Official Report*, column 136.

I should have said that the CWC's prohibitions apply to *all* toxic chemicals and their precursors, *unless* they are intended for permitted purposes and *provided* they are of a type and in a quantity consistent with such purposes. The schedules of chemicals do not limit the scope of the convention's prohibitions, they only provide a framework for the application of verification measures. Reinforcing the comprehensive nature of the CWC has been a key UK objective for the Second Review Conference, and the subject of one of the UK's four working papers submitted to the preparatory working group. It has also been a priority for the EU as set out in the EU's Common Position 2007/469/CFSP of 28 June 2007.

The CWC is a key component in the disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and regimes, and will remain so after the 2012 deadline for completion of destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles. We have already started to consider how the CWC will need to adapt to face future challenges and see this as a key issue to be addressed in the years ahead.

HEALTH

MHRA

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): I have received the business plan for the medicines and healthcare products regulatory agency (MHRA) which has been placed in the Library.

The agency has an important role to protect public health in the United Kingdom by ensuring that all medicines and medical devices are acceptably safe. The business plan for 2008-09 sets out specific key and high level targets for the agency for the coming year.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 30 April 2008

TREASURY

Competitiveness (Northern Ireland)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): Following representations by political parties in Northern Ireland, the Government commissioned Sir David Varney, in March 2007, to carry out a review of tax policy in Northern Ireland. The review was published in December 2007.

His report confirmed that the Northern Ireland economy was doing well under the devolution arrangements introduced a year ago. For example, Northern Ireland had the highest rate of economic growth of all UK regions outside London and the South East between 1997 and 2006, and in 2007 it had the lowest rate of unemployment of any region. There are now more people in employment than ever before.

But Sir David Varney's review noted that the Northern Ireland economy still faced some demanding challenges. It has the lowest level of productivity and employment of any region in the UK and public spending as a percentage of GDP is around 70 per cent. compared with 35 per cent. in Ireland.

So the Government asked Sir David to undertake a second review of competitiveness in Northern Ireland. The terms of reference were: "Building on Sir David's earlier analysis and agreement from all parties about the unique circumstances of Northern Ireland (in relation to the opportunities provided by the peace process, the need to strengthen the private sector, to create increased employment opportunities and to reform the public sector), this review will explore in more detail how to expand the private sector and to enhance Northern Ireland's competitiveness".

The Government are today publishing Sir David Varney's report. Copies of the report have been deposited in the Library of both Houses. I am very grateful to Sir David Varney and his team, and to all those who submitted evidence to the review, for this comprehensive report. It provides a valuable assessment of how the opportunities and challenges facing the Northern Ireland Executive in developing its economic strategy might best be approached.

Sir David recognises the new opportunities that peace and stability in Northern Ireland provide for stronger and greater prosperity.

The main findings of the report are:

the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government and the UK Government's May 2007 economic and financial package provide an excellent base for securing long-term transformational change in Northern Ireland;

the UK Government has a vital role to play in maintaining macroeconomic stability in a difficult world economic climate and maintaining the current competitive tax system;

there is scope for deepening and intensifying public sector reform, in particular increasing the role of the private sector in the delivery of core public services and transferring non-core services to the private sector in order to help stimulate its growth;

there is scope for further asset disposals in order to release funds for extra investment in the Northern Ireland Executive's priorities;

there is scope to improve productivity by more intensive use of the main levers and drivers of productivity including skills, enterprise, competition, investment and innovation; and

labour market and welfare reforms should be intensified to increase the employment rate.

Northern Ireland can benefit from participating further in an all-island economy by implementing the measures identified in the October 2006 report on the all-island economy.

The Government's Response

The Government welcome Sir David Varney's report and I look forward to discussing with Northern Ireland Executive Ministers how we can take forward the findings in the report together, while recognising that devolved policies are a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive and its Departments.

I welcome that the Northern Ireland Budget focused on those Northern Ireland Departments that have a central role in helping the economy. The UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive share the view that it is flexible and open economies that ultimately succeed, and that it is important to maximise Northern Ireland's export potential.

I also welcome the support which the Irish Government continue to provide in developing the all-island economy which directly benefits Northern Ireland through infrastructure and innovation investment, the assistance provided by the EU and the interest shown by the US, as can be seen in next week's US investment conference in Belfast.

In the 2008 Budget I announced a range of measures which will improve Northern Ireland's competitive position and strengthen the private sector including:

policies to maintain macroeconomic stability, with forecasts of continuing economic growth and low inflation;

policies to maintain a competitive tax system. From April 2008 the main rate of Corporation Tax is being reduced to 28 per cent., the lowest ever rate of Corporation Tax in the UK and the lowest in the G7;

policies to stimulate enterprise and improve access to finance for small and medium firms, including a temporary 20 per cent. increase in the funds available through the small firms loans guarantee, additional enterprise capital funds, a new capital fund for female entrepreneurs, and an increase in the Enterprise investment scheme. These measures are of particular benefit in Northern Ireland which has a higher than average concentration of SMEs;

measures to ensure better access to Government procurement for small firms;

confirmation of a commitment to a reduction of 25 per cent. in the administrative burden through regulation;

reform of incapacity benefits with the introduction of the employment and support allowance. Welfare reform is of particular benefit in Northern Ireland, which has the highest proportion of the population on incapacity benefit; and

£21 million additional DEL funding for the Northern Ireland Executive as a consequence of increases in spending on child poverty pilots and contributing to the costs of modernising the public sector.

I note the recommendations which Sir David Varney has made in his report. Many of these are for the Northern Ireland Executive to consider. The UK Government will respond to those that are directed to UK Ministers in due course.

Conclusion

The successful return of devolution to Northern Ireland, and the second stage envisaged in the St Andrews agreement, provides an opportunity for transformational change and inward investment which, if seized, has the opportunity to benefit all the people of Northern Ireland.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (14 April 2008)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): My noble Friend Lord Rooker represented the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg. Mike Russell, the Scottish Minister for Environment also attended.

The Council adopted a regulation which restricted Poland's future quotas for Baltic sea cod to reflect a 2007 overfish.

The Council held a policy debate on a proposal for a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The debate was based on a presidency questionnaire focusing on: the scope of the proposal—in particular whether EU vessels should be included or not; the proposed import certification system; and on potential criminal and administrative sanctions. The UK supported the general intention of the measure and the inclusion of EU vessels (to send the correct signal to our international counterparts), but raised concerns about the complexity of the proposed controls and the administrative resource implications.

The Council also held an exchange of views on a proposal amending the cod recovery regulation. The UK welcomed the general thrust of the proposal, but emphasised the importance of taking account of the UK's significant progress to date in reducing effort on cod. The UK also challenged the extension of the measures to the Celtic sea—on the grounds that cod formed only a small part of the activities of the vessels concerned and restricting their effort in this way would interfere with their ability to catch a range of other less vulnerable species.

In addition, a number of issues were raised under any other business.

The Fisheries Commissioner updated the Council on progress with the 2006-08 action plan for simplifying and improving the common fisheries policy. The UK intervened to ask for more member state consultation on the expected review of the control regulation.

The Council took note of updates provided by the Fisheries Commissioner on the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and the bluefin tuna recovery plan. The Council also took note of a report provided by the Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner on a recent outbreak of classical swine fever in Slovakia.

France requested an urgent review of the total allowable catch (TAC) for Celtic sea cod (in line with a December Council commitment). The UK supported the initiative and the Commission indicated that the matter was in hand and that they hoped to come forward with a suitable proposal before the end of June.

France expressed concerns over the Commission's intention to authorise chemical decontamination of fresh meat, and also on the continuing difficulties in the pigmeat sector. The UK joined with other member states to acknowledge the importance of consumer confidence.

Italy informed the Council about a recent case of fraud in the wine sector. Portugal raised concerns about the import of cattle and sheep from other member states infected and bluetongue virus (serotype 8).

The Agriculture Commissioner updated Council on the state of play in the WTO-DDA agriculture negotiations, following the recent agreement reached on sensitive products. Along with a number of other member states, the UK welcomed the progress being made and urged the Commission to continue working for a deal.

The presidency informed the Council on preparations for the forthcoming UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) high-level conference on world food security and the challenges of climate change and bioenergy, which will be held in Rome, on the 3 and 5 June 2008. Austria also drew Council's attention to FAO's 26th regional conference for Europe to be held, in Innsbruck, Austria on 26 and 27 June.

JUSTICE

Inquests into the Deaths of Service Personnel in Operations and Exercises Overseas

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. All casualties suffered by our armed forces are, of course, a source of profound regret. Our service personnel put their lives on the line to help build strong, stable and democratic nations, and to protect the interests of the United Kingdom. We cannot pay high enough tribute to the job that they are doing, or to the ultimate sacrifice which some of them have made. We remain strongly committed to minimising the effect on the bereaved families.

We made statements to the House on 5 June 2006 (Official Report, col.4WS), 12 October 2006 (Official Report, col. 26WS), 18 December 2006 (Official Report, col. 112WS), 29 March 2007 (Official Report, col. 121WS) 20 June 2007 (Official Report, col. 97WS) 30 October 2007 (Official Report, col. 36WS) and 31 January 2008 (Official Report, col. 35WS), with information about the conduct of inquests by the Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. Today, we are announcing the progress that has been made since the written ministerial statement on 31 January. This statement shows the position at 22 April, but does not reflect the tragic loss of Trooper Pearson in Afghanistan on 21 April, as the inquest has not yet been opened.

PROGRESS WITH INQUESTS

At the time of the last written ministerial statement, we reported that since additional funding had been provided by the Government to assist the Oxfordshire coroner, 123 inquests had been held: 109 into the overseas deaths of service personnel and 14 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton (although the January statement incorrectly implied that all the deaths were military).

Since January, a further 32 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who died in operations overseas whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton or RAF Lyneham. This makes a total of 155 inquests held since June 2006.

Since hostilities opened there have been a total of 176 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including one serviceman who died in the UK of his injuries. In two further cases no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

OPEN INQUESTS

(i) Pre-31 March 2007 Fatalities

There remain 27 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton prior to 31 March 2007. The Oxfordshire coroner has retained jurisdiction in 23 of these cases; four of these inquests have been transferred to coroners closer to the deceased's next of kin.

Hearing dates have been set in 18 cases. These include the inquests into the deaths of 14 crew members who died together in the Nimrod crash on 2 September 2006 which will be heard together, commencing on 6 May 2008. In the remaining nine inquests, investigations are ongoing but it has not yet been possible for an inquest date to be set. The oldest individual inquest for which no date had been set at the time of the last written ministerial statement was that into the death of Lieutenant Palmer, who died on 15 April 2006. The hearing date has now been set for 6 May 2008.

In addition there are 10 inquests into fatalities which were repatriated via RAF Lyneham prior to 1 April 2007. These relate to the deaths of 10 crew members who died together in the crash of Hercules XV179 on 30 January 2005. These inquests resumed on 31 March 2008, but have since been adjourned until September.

(ii) Post-1 April 2007 Fatalities

Since October 2007, additional resources have been provided by the Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests will not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon jurisdiction, now that fatalities are being repatriated via RAF Lyneham. These have enabled the coroner, Mr Masters, to engage an additional assistant deputy coroner, together with an additional coroner's officer and administrative support, and to provide appropriate accommodation to hold military inquests. These extra resources are helping to ensure that bereaved families are responded to sensitively and speedily following conclusions of the investigations. Mr Masters is continuing the practice of transferring military inquests to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible.

There remain 49 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007. Of these, Mr Masters has retained 25 inquests, whilst 24 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. Inquest hearing dates have been set in four of these cases. In the remaining 45 cases it has not yet been possible to set an inquest date.

(iii) Inquests into the Deaths of Service Personnel who Returned Home Injured

There remain five inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries.

We are very grateful for the efforts of all the coroners involved in conducting these inquests.

We shall continue to keep the House informed on a quarterly basis about progress with the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Libraries of both Houses which outline the status of all cases and date of death of each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

LIAISON WITH THE NEXT OF KIN

It is of the greatest importance that the next of kin have full information about the progress on the inquest of their deceased.

We remain committed to better supporting bereaved military families. The written ministerial statement issued on 7 June 2007 by my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr Ingram), the then Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, gave details of the support which was then being provided, and we continue to look for opportunities to improve our procedures. We have increased the number of family members who can travel and stay overnight if necessary, at public expense, to attend the repatriation ceremony. This has been extended to allow two family members to attend any pre-inquest hearings, as well as the inquest itself.

Visiting officers are crucial in providing the liaison between families and the services, and we continue to give close attention to the selection of and training for visiting officers.

We are also reviewing Board of Inquiry procedures to see what improvements can be made, with the aim of ensuring that coroners receive reports more expeditiously.

PRIME MINISTER

Senior Salaries Review Body (Chairman)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Bill Cockburn CBE TD as Chairman of the Senior Salaries Review Body for a three-year term, commencing April 2008. The appointment has been conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' guidance on appointments to public bodies.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 1 May 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and for Innovation, Universities and Skills and I are publishing today the report "Building a Low Carbon Economy: Unlocking Innovation and Skills". This forms the Government response to the Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance (CEMEP), and sets out how Government will work with business to seize the major economic opportunities of moving to a low carbon, resource efficient economy. I have placed copies of the response in the Libraries of both Houses.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent Monitoring Commission

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have received the Eighteenth Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report has been made under Articles 4 and 7 of the international agreement that established the Commission and its reports on levels of paramilitary activity in Northern Ireland. I have considered the content of the report and I am today bringing it before Parliament. I have placed copies in the Library of the House.

The report confirms the assessment made in previous reports that PIRA continues to be committed to a political path and the belief that they will not be diverted from it. The IMC highlight that the "organisation continues to work with the policing institutions and encourages interaction with PSNI, including reporting crime".

The report illustrates that the threat from dissident republicans is still prevalent. This includes Oglaigh na hEireann (ONH) which the IMC consider to be "more seriously active in the six months under review", remaining a continuing and serious threat, and the Continuity IRA (CIRA) "remain active, dangerous and determined". There is also evidence of dissidents having sought to target the homes and places of work of PSNI officers and of members of the public. The IMC recognise that the police and intelligence agencies north and south have maintained a high level of effort against dissident republicans. It is important to note that dissidents have no popular support, and will not be a destabilising force.

In relation to loyalism the IMC highlight that loyalists will be judged on delivery, one of the key elements to this being decommissioning. The IMC assessment of the UVF illustrates the organisation's continuing efforts to pursue their 3 May 2007 statement. The Commission recognises the UDA statement of 11 November 2007 as an important "statement of intent".

I welcome the IMC's analysis of normalisation and the end of transition. It is clear to all that "transition can not continue indefinitely". This is especially true of decommissioning and as such we all await the completion of devolution.

The IMC also provided an assessment of the killing of Paul Quinn. The IMC reported that this brutal murder was clearly contrary to the instructions and strategy of the leadership of PIRA. It is aware of no evidence linking the leadership of PIRA to the incident.

The Government will look closely at the conclusions reached by the IMC.

Once again, I am grateful to the Commission for the submission of this report and for its careful analysis. The report offers a clear picture of both the extraordinary progress made and the challenges ahead to secure an end to paramilitarism in Northern Ireland.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 6 May 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Rose Review (Primary Curriculum)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): In a written statement on 9 January 2008, *Official* Report, column 9WS, I summarised the remit of Sir Jim Rose's independent review of the primary curriculum. Among other things, his remit includes making recommendations on introducing greater flexibility to help schools narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

In the Children's Plan, the Government acknowledged that more needs to be done to improve outcomes and provision for children with special educational needs, to increase parental confidence that children's educational needs are being met, including for children with dyslexia.

To encourage schools' development of best practice in improving outcomes for children with dyslexia, my Department is:

Providing funding of around £1 million over three years to the No to Failure project. No to Failure is trailblazing and evaluating the impact of specialist training for teachers and specialist tuition for children with dyslexia in some schools in three local authority areas.

Through the National Strategies, rolling out to all areas this year an inclusion development programme (IDP) designed to increase knowledge and awareness of dyslexia and communication difficulties among the schools and early years workforce and improve learning outcomes for this particular group of children

Providing £150,000 over two financial years to enable the British Dyslexia Association to develop their helpline, which provides advice about dyslexia—including to teachers and parents.

Providing £250,000 over three financial years to enable Dyslexia Action to run further Partnership for Literacy pilots.

In this context, we have now additionally asked Sir Jim Rose, in the light of evidence, to make recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia, and on how best to take forward the commitment in the Children's Plan to establish a pilot scheme in which children with dyslexia will receive reading recovery support or one-to-one tuition from specialist dyslexia teachers.

We have asked Sir Jim Rose to include the following sources of evidence in developing his recommendations:

a summary of published research on the impact of specialist dyslexia teaching and reading recovery on progression and outcomes for children with dyslexia, currently being prepared by Dr. Chris Singleton of Hull University;

evaluations of Every Child a Reader, including reading recovery, carried out by the Every Child a Chance Trust and the Institute of Education;

a recently published interim evaluation of the No to Failure project's identification of children at risk of dyslexia/specific learning difficulties;

No to Failure project's final evaluation of the progress made by children identified as being at risk of dyslexia/specific learning difficulties who have received specialist dyslexia teaching, which the project expects to publish at the end of this year.

Sir Jim Rose will also consult with the No to Failure project and other dyslexia organisations in considering his recommendations. He has agreed to prepare a report containing his recommendations early in 2009.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Flood Recovery Update

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): Last summer's exceptional floods caused widespread damage and misery for thousands of people. But the response was equally exceptional—from local authorities and other local agencies, the police, fire and rescue services, the military and neighbours helping each other. Government have been committed to playing our part and we have already made up to £88 million available so far to flood-hit communities to support their efforts to get back on their feet.

The costs of the floods to the country were significant. That is why in August we submitted an application to the European Union solidarity fund, which was set up specifically to help countries that have experienced extensive damage from natural disasters such as floods. We have worked closely with the Commission on this application and I can confirm that the European Commission gave clearance for the funding to be paid to the UK when it approved the amended EU budget on 7 April. I welcome this clearance and recognise the key role played by Commissioner Hübner in the EU's decision to approve our UK application.

The European Commission's clearance was for payment of around £110 million as a contribution to the cost of recovery from last summer's floods. However, the UK's special "abatement mechanism", agreed between Government and the EU and in place since 1984, means that the net value to the UK of this allocation is an extra £31 million.

I therefore announce today that all this extra funding will be paid to flood-affected local areas. The money will be distributed through a new one-off £30.6 million restoration fund to local authorities, police authorities and fire authorities in England, with the balance allocated to the Northern Irish and Welsh devolved Administrations. I propose that eligibility for payments from the new fund will be based on the costs incurred in dealing with the flood problems since the summer and that local authorities will be free to spend this money according to the local priorities they determine. I am starting a short consultation on this basis today.

The restoration fund will mean the Government have made up to £118 million available so far to local areas hit by last summer's floods.

The Government will account for the spending of the EUSF payment directly to the European Commission so that local authorities eligible for payments from the new fund will not have to deal with the strict rules that govern EUSF and can concentrate on the job of leading the full recovery efforts in their communities.

Parliamentary Question (Correction)

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): The hon. Member for Peterborough (Stewart Jackson) asked for a copy of all correspondence relating to the purchase by the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation (TTGDC) of (a) the Grays TA headquarters and (b) industrial land at Purfleet in the financial year 2007-08 to be placed in the Library of the House.

In my response on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 645-46W, I said that the correspondence would be placed in the Library of the House, subject to the exclusion of any information that may compromise commercial negotiations or contravene the Data Protection Act.

I have now been advised that in order to meet this undertaking, officials of the Department and the Thames Gateway Development Corporation would have to scrutinise thousands of documents at a significant cost to the public purse. In the light of this further advice, I do not consider this to be an effective use of my Department's resources and I will not therefore be able to provide a copy of the correspondence. I regret this has occurred.

I am writing to the hon. Member for Peterborough to say that TTGDC will invite him to visit the sites at Grays and Purfleet and to meet with them. They have said that they are happy to discuss progress on these projects.

DEFENCE

Headley Court

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am pleased to inform the House of the outcomes of our review of Defence Medical Rehabilitation. The review concluded that Defence Medical Rehabilitation is a success story, returning service personnel, whenever possible, to full fitness faster than in the past.

The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court is widely recognised as delivering first-class specialist rehabilitation of complex cases. The enormous benefit of bringing together service personnel, both those wounded on operations and those injured in training, contributes to the astonishing recovery that so many of our patients make.

The Government recognise that continuing investment is needed to ensure that Headley Court retains its reputation as a centre of excellence.

With the increase in the numbers and complexity of military casualties over recent years, we have steadily enhanced DMRC's capabilities:

We now have our own workshops and technicians to provide "state of the art" limb fitting service, enabling us to start to mobilise patients who have lost limbs as soon as they arrive at DMRC and to make adjustments to their prostheses as required.

We have increased the numbers of therapists and nurses and introduced a new team to deal with head injuries, working closely with partner organisations.

We have deployed physiotherapists into Iraq and Afghanistan to assess patients' needs and start treatment, where appropriate, in advance of their arrival at Headley Court.

Last May we opened a new temporary ward annexe, providing 30 additional beds and giving us a total of 66 ward beds.

Headley Court benefits from the use of a hydrotherapy pool and four gyms on site.

We are building this year a new 58-bed temporary accommodation block, at a cost of about £4 million—work on site is due to start today.

Our review has confirmed that the DMRC Headley Court should continue to be the specialist centre for rehabilitation, and has recommended further improvements so that it can continue to deliver first-class care.

In the light of the review we have now decided to invest an additional £24 million in the Headley Court site over the next four years to maintain and enhance DMRC's capabilities. This will enable us to:

replace the new ward annex (designed to be a temporary structure) by extending the Peter Long Unit, and incorporating into that extension an expanded prosthetics facility, treatment areas, and imaging facilities.

replace progressively over the next few years all the existing 180 non-ward bed patient and staff accommodation.

I pay tribute to the charitable bodies that have also contributed to the work of DMRC and its predecessor organisations since Headley Court first opened its doors to RAF patients shortly after the second world war. The estate is owned by a charitable trust, which has itself contributed generously to the improvement of facilities on the site.

The Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Family Association has purchased a house in nearby Ashtead that was opened earlier this year as a "home from home" for families visiting patients at Headley Court, supplementing accommodation that we had already provided on site.

Last year a new charity, Help for Heroes, generously offered to raise funds for a swimming pool and gym, which would together form a new rehabilitation complex, with additional space for rehabilitation and assessment. The charity has already made impressive progress in its fund-raising. We are working closely with Help for Heroes in planning the new facility.

We warmly welcome the contributions of charities to the welfare of the services. Support for them enables the public to demonstrate their appreciation for the work of the armed forces in tangible ways.

The new investment I have announced today, together with current funding for new facilities, means that Headley Court will see investment over the next four years totalling some £28 million in addition to the substantial funding that Help for Heroes intends to provide for the new rehabilitation complex.

Our review also looked at the Services' Primary Care Rehabilitation Facilities (PCRFs) and Regional Rehabilitation Units (RRUs). The review recommended enhancements to the permanent capability of RRUs, and improvements to the referrals process. The roles and locations of some of the RRUs should be adjusted to align better with current and future population centres. I have agreed that we should provide an additional £1.5 million per year from financial year 2009-10 to establish the necessary permanent manning uplifts at the RRUs, and commissioned further work to take forward the other recommendations.

The outcomes of the review demonstrate our commitment to rehabilitation. The review charts the strategic direction we shall now follow, to build on our success to date in returning service personnel to mobility and usually to duty. In partnership with the charity sector, we are ensuring that service patients, particularly those severely wounded on operations, receive the best treatment that is available and that it is delivered in an environment that supports their rehabilitation in every way possible.

Our servicemen and women deserve no less for the efforts that they are making on our behalf.

I shall place a copy of the review's top level report and recommendations in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): I represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Luxembourg on 29 April 2008.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Zimbabwe

I agreed Council conclusions that underlined the EU's deep concerns at the delay in announcing the results of the general election, condemned violence and called for moratorium on arms sales. Ministers agreed that SADC but also the AU had a crucial role to play and the EU should continue to work closely with African states to encourage their efforts to deliver a credible and genuinely democratic solution to the crisis.

I intervened to underline that it was clear President Mugabe was in the process of trying to steal the election and that the EU needed to remain robust in exposing and condemning the violence and human rights abuses on the ground.

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers discussed developments since the Annapolis conference, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting in London on 2 May and looked ahead to the Berlin conference in support of Palestinian security and the rule of law on 2 June. Ministers underlined the importance of continuing to support the political process, and expressed concerns over the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Iraq

Ministers had an exchange of views on the situation in Iraq, following the Iraq neighbours' conference in Kuwait on 22 April. Ministers welcomed security improvements and progress on national reconciliation, but recognised that the situation remained fragile. Ministers also looked forward to the annual review of the international compact with Iraq in Stockholm on 29 May.

Pakistan

High Representative Solana gave a read out of his recent visit to Islamabad. I agreed the Council conclusions reaffirming the importance of EU-Pakistan relations, including support for the development of regional and bilateral trade, education and democratic institution building. Ministers supported the Pakistani Government's fight against extremism and progress on reinforcing democracy since the election on 18 February. Ministers also underlined the importance of supporting the Government of Pakistan to implement the Electoral Observation Mission's recommendations for electoral reform to support the democratic process in Pakistan, improve transparency and help ensure participation of citizens in the election.

Burma

The Council adopted a common position renewing restrictive measures against Burma for another 12 months. I also agreed Council conclusions on Burma, which highlighted the Council's ongoing concern about the situation in Burma, and in particular the deep flaws in the regime's 10 May referendum on a new constitution aimed at entrenching military rule. The Council underlined its readiness to consider further restrictive measures in the light of developments. Ministers had an exchange of views on the text of the draft constitution and referendum on 10 May.

Piracy off Somali Coast

Ministers noted recent piracy incidents off the Somali coast, which they condemned.

Western Balkans

Discussion of the Western Balkans focused on Serbia. The Council agreed on the signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Serbia, which President Tadic signed in the margins of the Council. I intervened to stress the importance of full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia remaining a condition in Serbia's EU accession process. The requirement for full co-operation was fully recognised in the Council's conclusions, which make clear that ratification of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and implementation of the Interim Agreement will be dependent on a Council decision that Serbia is fully co-operating with the ICTY.

The Council also expressed its readiness to sign the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina, following the recent adoption of legislation on police reform. The Government welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress against the conditions for signing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and hope that signature will take place rapidly.

Georgia

Ministers agreed that the EU should reaffirm its support for Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty in the light of recent developments. The Government support the presidency's initiative to organise a visit to Georgia, to highlight the EU's concerns and offer support in resolving tensions with Russia.

Russia

Ministers discussed adoption of the mandate for negotiation of a successor to the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement with Russia. Agreement was not possible at this GAERC, Ministers are expected therefore return to the issue at the May GAERC.

Zimbabwe

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): In the five weeks since the elections in Zimbabwe, 7,000 people have been displaced, 500 beaten, 120 hospitalised and at least two murdered. Many more were unable to access medical treatment. In addition, the police have arrested scores of people who they associate with the opposition in Zimbabwe and have raided their offices. The announcement of the result of the presidential election should be seen against that background. Violence has been commonplace in Zimbabwe but those figures and these acts show the brutality of the regime in its quest to hold on to power.

Very soon after the election it was clear that the majority of the electorate had rejected President Mugabe. But ZANU-PF chose to delay the results, rather than face the truth. That delay has simply allowed the Zimbabwean authorities to contaminate the results. We can have little faith that the figures announced accurately reflect the will of the people. Significantly, the MDC opposition have not endorsed those published figures, even though they show that a clear majority of voters want change.

The first round of voting in Zimbabwe suffered from significant structural deficiencies. The electoral roll was and is still grossly inaccurate. The majority of the 3 million to 4 million people who have fled Zimbabwe were and will still be prevented from registering as voters. Within Zimbabwe media coverage of the election was already biased towards Mugabe and ZANU-PF. And the Government of Zimbabwe, at its own admission, did not invite anyone to monitor the election whom they thought might point out its flaws—including the EU and the UN. For a second round to be considered free and fair, there must at least be an immediate end to violence, and international observers must be put in place now, well ahead of the vote itself.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown and I continue to engage regional leaders. They are feeling the destabilising effects of the crisis. They know it is in their interests for the SADC principles and guidelines on elections to be enforced and the rule of law in Zimbabwe established. Both SADC and the AU have a pivotal role to play now in ensuring an end to the violence, and by introducing observers to prevent further reprisals by ZANU-PF to punish voters for the choices they made in the first round.

International concern about the situation in Zimbabwe remains high. The UN Security Council briefing held in New York last week exposed the humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe and the need for the UN to be more engaged to resolve it. We will continue to press for a human rights mission or envoy to visit and for arms sales to cease until there is a return to democratic Government in Zimbabwe. We will also call again for UN backed monitors to go to Zimbabwe to observe any second round, and for the Government of Zimbabwe to allow EU and other observers in now to oversee preparations for the elections, as well as the voting itself.

We continue to support all those working for democratic change in Zimbabwe. We all share the wish of the Zimbabwean people to secure their democratic rights. We commend civil society groups in Zimbabwe who continue to fight for democracy and good governance in increasingly impossible circumstances.

We continue to respond to the humanitarian crisis on the ground. We are the second largest bilateral donor to Zimbabwe, giving around £49 million in 2007 and more than £200 million since 2000. UK aid currently keeps over 1.5 million people alive. The UK, along with the international community, is committed to supporting recovery in Zimbabwe when conditions on the ground allow it. This cannot happen until the will of the people is respected and democracy returned to Zimbabwe. But when that happens we will be ready to respond.

It is clear to all, including many in ZANU-PF, that this situation is unsustainable. Economically, Zimbabwe has been in decline for many years: total economic collapse, with the massive humanitarian cost that will bring, is inevitable unless there is a radical change in policy and approach in Zimbabwe. We still believe that the solution to the crisis must be an African solution supported by the international community. For the sake of all the people of Zimbabwe, this solution must come soon.

HEALTH

Adults with Learning Disabilities

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): We are today laying before Parliament the Government's response (Cm 7378) to the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) report "A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities", which was published on 6 March.

The JCHR's report recognises that life for people with learning disabilities has improved considerably over the last 30 years. However, the Committee still found serious cause for concern about the way people with learning disabilities are treated by society at large.

The Government response welcomes the JCHR's report and sets out the Government's commitment and practical steps that we are taking to uphold the rights of adults with learning disabilities in mainstream public services.

Several of the Committee's recommendations are around influencing the outcome of the consultation response on "Valuing People Now", the Government's consultation on learning disability policy. This response commits the Government to revisiting the JCHR report and providing a further response to the Committee when publishing the final "Valuing People Now" strategy.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Stirling (Mrs. McGuire), is making a written statement today on the Government's response to the Committee's recommendation about ratification of the UN convention which is contained in this publication.

Today's publication is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

National Identity Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The fourth cost report of the national identity scheme is being laid before Parliament today. It sets out an estimate of the public expenditure likely to be incurred on the scheme over the next 10 years, in accordance with section 37 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. It reports on developments over the past six months, since the third cost report was published on 8 November 2007.

Immigration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I am today announcing the next steps in our programme of comprehensive immigration reform for 2008. I am publishing statements of intent which set out how the points system will work for skilled migrants coming to fill vacancies here, and for those who come to the UK temporarily for cultural and other non-economic reasons.

The Points-Based System

The UK's new points system is central to our plans for controlling the numbers and skills of people coming to the UK, and ensuring only those the UK needs from outside the EEA can come to work or study.

We began the points system earlier this year with arrangements for highly skilled migrants. The statements of intent I am publishing today outline details on how the system will work for skilled and temporary migrants.

These arrangements will significantly reduce the number of routes to the UK and will include five key changes for skilled workers.

First, all employers who wish to employ skilled migrants will need a licence, provided and monitored by the UK Border Agency. This will help ensure employers are fulfilling their obligations to the UK, for example, helping migrants to understand and comply with our immigration rules.

Secondly, migrants will be required to show English language competence to assist with their effectiveness at work and their integration into British life.

Thirdly, all jobs will be required to meet the resident labour market test before a migrant can be recruited unless the job is in a certified shortage occupations or is an intra-company transfer.

Fourthly, all migrants not filling jobs on the shortage occupation list will be required to earn points through their qualifications and prospective earnings.

Fifthly, there will be a maintenance requirement so that would-be migrants must prove they have the ability to support themselves for the first month they are here.

We are publishing the draft points pass mark today. The final points pass mark for the skilled tier of the points system will be informed by the work of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) on economic needs and that of the Migration Impacts Forum on the wider effects of migration.

The MAC will produce shortage occupation lists for the UK, and Scotland only, showing where there are skilled shortages that can be sensibly filled by migration through the points based system.

Statement of Intent for the Temporary Workers and Youth Mobility Tier (Tier 5).

Tier 5 of the points-based system covers temporary workers and the UK's new international youth mobility scheme, allowing people to travel to the UK to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives including five sub-categories: creative and sporting; charity workers; religious; Government-authorised exchange; and international agreement.

As with our arrangements for skilled migrants:

All migrants will need a certificate of sponsorship from a licensed sponsor who will vouch that the migrant will comply with the terms of their stay in the UK, before they even arrive in the UK.

Migrants must also meet the maintenance requirements, demonstrating that they can support themselves while they are here in the UK.

The Tier 5 international youth mobility scheme will allow young people from partner nations to come to the United Kingdom for up to two years to work and travel, while young UK nationals enjoy similar experiences in those countries.

We are publishing these documents today so that those affected by the changes we are putting in place can prepare. We are also giving people the opportunity to comment on the documents. A statement of intent for students under the points based system will follow later this year.

Copies of the statements of intent on the skilled migrant tier and the temporary worker and youth mobility tier have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The documents are also available on the United Kingdom Border Agency's website at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/pbsdocs/.

JUSTICE

Office of the Public Guardian

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) supports the Public Guardian in discharging his statutory duties under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The OPG was formed in October 2007 with the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act and 2008-09 is therefore the first full financial year of operation for the agency.

The following list sets out the key performance targets that have been set for the Office of the Public Guardian and the Court Of Protection for the year 2008-09.

KPI 1: Lasting Power of Attorney/Enduring Power of Attorney

On receipt:

a) (i) On receipt of an invalid or incomplete LPA or EPA, we will notify 80 per cent. of applicants within 10 working days.

(ii) On receipt of a valid LPA, in 80 per cent. of cases we will notify the party or parties not making the application within 10 working days.

On registering:

b) (i) We will register 98 per cent. of LPA applications within five working days of the end of the statutory waiting period[1].

(ii) Where an attorney makes an EPA application within 10 days of notifying relatives, we will register 98 per cent. within five working days of the end of the statutory waiting period[2].

(iii) Where an attorney makes an EPA application more than 10 days after notifying relatives, we will register 98 per cent. within 15 working days of receipt, or within five working days of the end of the statutory waiting period, whichever is the later.

KPI 2: Supervision of Deputies

All deputyship cases will require a supervision regime based on a risk assessment. Risk criteria include: whether a deputy has been refused credit or is an un-discharged bankrupt; whether the deputy has any financial interests which conflict with those of the client; the value of the client's estate; the relationship of the deputy to the client; and any objections which were made to the appointment of the deputy.

a) 90 per cent. of new deputyship cases will be assessed and a supervision level set within 30 working days of the court order being served on the Public Guardian.

b) 100 per cent. of ongoing deputyships with close supervision (type I) will have a formal reassessment of the supervision level within 13 months of the previous assessment.

c) We will carry out a case review on no less than 4000 type II cases during the year.

A case review could be a combination of:

review of annual report;

carrying out a visit; and

review of supervision level following short-term intervention.

KPI 3: Contacting the OPG

The contact centre will act as point of communication for anybody contacting the OPG for advice and information about the OPG, the Court of Protection and other MCA-related issues. It will also act as the first point of contact for most deputies in relation to queries about their powers and duties.

a) We will respond to 95 per cent. of correspondence (including letters, faxes and emails) within 15 working days of receipt.

b) 85 per cent. of telephone calls to the contact centre will be answered within 60 seconds.

KPI 4: Investigations

Upon receipt of an investigations case in the compliance and regulation unit, it is allocated to a specific caseworker. At this point of allocation the 14-day target to set an action begins. The three month target to complete the investigation is inclusive of the 14 days in which the action plan is put in place.

a) We will put in place an approved action plan in 100 per cent. of investigations cases within 14 days of receipt.

b) 75 per cent. of investigations will be completed within three months.

KPI 5: Quality of Service

a) To measure the quality of service people are experiencing in different areas of the organisation, we will carry out targeted surveys throughout the year and report the findings in the OPG 2008-09 annual report. A baseline figure will be agreed with Ministers following receipt of the 2007-08 results and will published in the Public Guardian section 60 report.

b) We will also devise measures concentrating on the quality of service delivered through the contact centre. The results will be published in the 2008-09 annual report.

KPI 6: Finance

Based on the statutory instrument for fees approved by Parliament, we will aim to achieve the following targets for full cost recovery:

a) OPG—100 per cent. full cost recovery.

b) Court of Protection—63 per cent. full cost recovery.

Full cost is defined as:

The total cost of carrying out the provision of services to the taxpayer, less social subsidy/fee remission; financial losses over and above a yearly notional premium; in-year bad debts write off and exceptional items.

Court of Protection

1. In 95 per cent. of cases we will contact the applicant within 20 working days of receipt of the formal application.

2. In 75 per cent. of applications where no oral hearing is directed, the court will give a direction within 16 weeks; and in 98 per cent. of applications the court will give a direction within 20 weeks.

3. In 75 per cent. of applications where an oral hearing is directed, the hearing will be arranged within six weeks of the direction, with all hearings being arranged within 14 weeks.

4. We will respond to 95 per cent. of correspondence (including letters, faxes and emails) within 15 working days of receipt.

5. We are due to carry out the first survey of court satisfaction by the end of March 2008. Our objective for 2008-09 is to increase satisfaction in court services from this baseline.

Copies of the Office of the Public Guardian framework document and business plan will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and from the website of the OPG (www.publicguardian.gov.uk) from 6 May 2008.

[1]The statutory waiting period for LPAs is 6 weeks from the latest date on which the Public Guardian gave notice as required by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 that he had received an application to register the LPA.

[2]The statutory waiting period for EPAs is 35 days from the latest date on which the attorney gave notice of his intention to register the EPA as required by the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

TRANSPORT

Draft Marine Navigation Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I am today publishing a draft Marine Navigation Bill, for public consultation and parliamentary pre-legislative scrutiny. The draft Bill contains legislative proposals to help to improve safety at sea and in our ports, to deal with wrecks if they do occur and to update the powers of the bodies responsible for maritime safety. Copies of the draft Bill, a consultation paper and other accompanying documents are available in the Libraries of both Houses and the Vote Office.

The issues dealt with in this Bill have been identified in a number of reviews, accident reports and the IMO international convention on the removal of wrecks 2007. In bringing forward this draft Bill I hope to address these issues as far as can reasonably be done.

Any statutory safety measures need to offer a balance between excessive controls and prudent management. The changes that I am proposing in this draft Bill are not fundamental but they do represent a considered approach to the issues that have been identified and they will provide the responsible authorities with useful enhancements to their powers where necessary.

There are also measures in the draft Bill that will help to reduce costs to the shipping industry through the better management of the general lighthouse fund. When the IMO convention comes into force there will be significant improvements in our ability to recoup the costs of dealing with pollution and the aftermath of maritime accidents as it will introduce a strict liability regime and compulsory insurance for shipping operators, meaning that these costs will no longer be picked up by the authorities responsible for safety and the environment which can now happen when the operators or owners of the ship fail to accept responsibility.

The draft Bill sets out our legislative proposals to:

allow the ratification of the IMO convention in the UK so that the Government can compel ship owners to remove wrecks or, if emergency works are carried out by the Government or general lighthouse authorities, facilitate recovery of their costs from the ship owner or its insurers;

enable the Secretary of State to direct a harbour authority which is exercising its functions unsafely;

give all harbour authorities access to a power to give general directions to shipping;

allow a competent harbour authority to relinquish its unwanted pilotage powers;

provide a simple way for the duties of a harbour authority to be extinguished where it no longer serves a useful purpose and to ensure any residual duties are carried out appropriately;

permit the introduction of compulsory national occupational standards for harbourmasters and pilots;

improve the regulation of pilotage exemption certificates; and

modernise some of the powers of the general lighthouse authorities.

Publication of the draft Bill provides an important opportunity to ensure we get our proposals right through public consultation, and for Parliament to scrutinise the legislation in draft. We need to learn from and build on the diversity of experience of professionals in the ports and shipping industries and all who are concerned about the safety of shipping and the protection of the marine and coastal environment, so I encourage all interested parties to participate in the consultation process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

UN Convention on Disability Rights

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): Today the Government have responded to the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Human Rights in its report "A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities", that the Government should ratify the UN convention on disability rights and the optional protocol without further delay or provide clear unambiguous details of any specific impediments to immediate ratification.

The response makes it clear that the UK does not ratify any international treaty until it is in a position to ensure that it can implement the provisions and therefore comply with its obligations. In addition, the European Community is, for the first time, a party to an international human rights convention and this will inevitably affect the ratification timetable. Given the duty on member states to co-operate with the Community, the UK would wish to take into account the European Commission's proposal for Community conclusion of the convention, which is still awaited.

Article 33 of the convention on disability rights is an unusual provision in UN human rights conventions. Article 33 requires states party to the convention to establish national monitoring arrangements, and the Government have wished to properly consult the equality and human rights commission and the devolved Administrations about these arrangements. These consultations are continuing.

Ratification will be in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Part of this process has required the devolved Administrations and Government Departments to check their legislation, policies, practices and procedures against the convention's provisions. This has inevitably taken some time. However, this phase of the work is now over and we are considering carefully the emerging findings. Our aim remains to ratify the convention by the end of this year.

The current position is that the Ministry of Defence has indicated that there is a need to enter a reservation in respect of service in the armed forces, consistent with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended (DDA) and Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation. Service in any of the naval, military or air forces of the Crown are excluded from the DDA's employment provisions to preserve their combat effectiveness. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has indicated that there is a need to recognise that the general education system in the UK includes a range of provision, including mainstream and special schools which will require an interpretative declaration, and that there will also need to be a reservation in respect of disabled children whose needs are best met through specialist provision, which may be some way from their home. The Home Office has indicated that there may be a need to enter one or more reservations or declarations in respect of immigration, nationality and citizenship.

There are also a number of areas where we are continuing to explore whether there are any compatibility issues which may result in the need for an interpretative declaration or reservation. These are: measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity; aspects of mental health legislation; choice of place of residence; and cultural services (interpretive measures).

With regard to the optional protocol, the Government are aware of the importance that many disabled people and the Committee attach to this issue. The Government is carefully considering its position as part of the convention ratification process in the light of the ongoing review by the Ministry of Justice of a similar optional protocol relating to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 7 May 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): Earlier this year Parliament approved orders creating, from 1 April 2009, nine new unitary councils for the seven areas of Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Durham, Northumberland, Shropshire and Wiltshire. I explained to the House during debates on these orders the approach we intended to adopt for the transfer and appointment of staff to these new councils. Today, I am confirming these arrangements and publishing draft regulations and draft guidance, which cover both the transfer of staff to the new councils and the appointment of the chief executives and other senior managers.

We have developed this approach in consultation with the councils concerned, the local government employers and the trade unions, based originally on our discussion document of August 2007, "Councils' Proposals for Unitary Local Government: An Approach to Implementation". Today we are sending to these interested parties drafts of the regulations and draft guidance, inviting any further comments on the detailed drafting over the next two weeks.

I plan to make staffing regulations which will apply the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) to any transfers of staff occurring as a result of local government reorganisation. The staffing regulations will also require the post of chief executive (head of paid service) of each new unitary authority to be recruited by means of open competition, to be held by 1 April 2010 at the latest. Furthermore, our planned guidance makes clear that the Government expect to see open competition as the means of recruiting to all other senior management board posts, unless there are clear and specific circumstances on the basis of which the council considers there is a compelling case for an alternative approach, which would not detract from both the reality and the perception of the authority being genuinely new.

We believe that this approach will create a clear and consistent framework for the transfer and appointment of staff to all the new unitary councils, which will give both the level of reassurance staff rightly need and expect over their employment, and the flexibility the new councils need to establish innovative arrangements for empowering local communities and delivering improved local public services. Whilst recognising concerns about continuity, particularly through the transition period, the importance that we attach to open competition for senior management board appointments is a recognition of how the new councils will need senior officers with new skills, experiences and perspectives if they are to take full advantage of the opportunities they have to become genuine flagship councils for the future of local government.

We will consider any comments from interested parties and make the regulations and publish the final guidance document as soon as practicable thereafter.

I have placed copies of the draft regulations and draft guidance in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

RCEP Report "The Urban Environment" (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Government have today published their response to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's twenty-sixth report "The Urban Environment". The report looks at the environmental problems that affect urban dwellers, and conversely the impact that urban centres have on the environment.

With most of us today living in towns and cities, it is vitally important that our urban environment is designed and managed in a way which is uplifting, offers access to clean air, water and green space; encourages us to lead active, healthy lives; makes a full contribution to reducing our carbon emissions and is robust to the changes in climate that we are already starting to see.

The Government's response to the commission's report sets out the action that we are taking to achieve these goals.

Copies of the Government's response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. A copy can also be accessed on the DEFRA website.

HEALTH

NHS Foundation Trusts (Authorisations)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts) announced this week that, in accordance with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor has decided to authorise the following NHS acute and mental health trusts as NHS foundation trusts from 1 May:

Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust (formerly Essex Rivers NHS Trust);

Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust;

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust; and

Somerset Partnerships NHS and Social Care Trust

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts to 96. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the Library.

The Government remain committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to apply for foundation status as soon as practicable. Monitor is now authorising trusts on a monthly basis, and further waves of NHS foundation trusts are set to follow.

JUSTICE

National Reoffending Measures 2008-11

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I am, with the Minister of State, Department for Children Schools and Families, my right hon. Friend the Member for Stretford and Urmston (Beverley Hughes), today announcing improvements to the way that the Government measure their performance in reducing reoffending. The statistics will focus on how many reoffences are committed and how many of those are serious offences. The delay in reporting adult reoffending statistics will be reduced. This broader range of information on reoffending rates, will allow for better, more timely analysis of reoffending and ultimately help to reduce crime and make communities safer.

Current Reoffending Data

The Government currently measure the proportion of offenders who reoffend within a given period (two years for adults, one year for juveniles) following either their conviction where a community sentence is given, or release from prison where a custodial sentence is given. The reoffending rate is then compared against a predicted rate. The predicted rate is based on how statistically likely offenders are to reoffend, based on factors such as age and criminal history. If the actual rate of reoffending is lower than the predicted rate, then reoffending has fallen.

This measure has been helpful in providing an accurate picture of the difference that work to reduce reoffending has made to reoffending rates. We will continue to monitor progress using predicted rates and measure progress against the 2002 spending review target that covers the years 2000-06. The target data will be published in autumn 2008.

New Measures

The new Make Communities Safer PSA has provided opportunities to broaden the range of reoffending data collected, reflecting the Governments focus on protecting communities from the harm caused by prolific and serious crimes in particular.

While the current regime measures whether a known offender reoffends or not, the new metric focuses on how many reoffences an offender commits. The new headline measure will monitor the frequency of reoffences per 100 offenders (in the cohort). This will provide a better measure of our impact with those offenders who cause most damage to communities through committing most crime. In addition we will measure the frequency per 100 offenders of reoffences which are classified as serious, such as violence against the person (including grievous bodily harm, murder and manslaughter) and serious sexual offences.

The new measures look beyond simply whether some one reoffends or not and reflects the balance between serious and prolific reoffenders, offenders who commit a small number of reoffences and those who do not reoffend at all.

Timing

We are also reducing the time it takes to report adult reoffending data. Under the new measures, the period of time over which reoffences by adult offenders are recorded has been reduced from two years to one year. The time allowed for convictions to be made and processed has also been reduced from nine months to six months. This will provide a more timely measure of adult reoffending and allows us to align reporting of the adult and juvenile reoffending data.

Comparisons over time

To ensure the figures are as transparent as possible, recalculated reoffending data for the period 2000 to 2004 (to 2005 for juveniles) will be published so that fair comparisons can be made over time. We will also continue to publish a reoffending rate that compares the actual and predicted rates.

Results

On 9 May the latest adult reoffending figures for 2005 will be published using the new reoffending measures. The National Statistics bulletin will also contain recalculated reoffending figures using the new metric from 2000-04 for adults and 2000-05 for juveniles (excluding the year 2001) so that meaningful comparisons can be made under the new measures.

TRANSPORT

Learning to Drive

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): Over the past decade Britain's roads have become much safer. The number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents has fallen by a third, keeping road travel in this country safer than almost anywhere else in the world.

But we cannot afford to be complacent when on average nine people a day die on our roads. In particular, we must do more to help make newly qualified drivers safer, one in five of whom has some kind of accident within six months of passing their test.

We must ensure that people learning to drive are taught the skills they need to be safe drivers when they start driving alone. It is time for a new approach to learning to drive. We must make sure that novice drivers are safe drivers when they have passed their test. We must also create an expectation of lifelong learning, so that people continue advanced learning after their test.

That is why I am today publishing a consultation paper targeted at improving the training and testing of new drivers.

Our research shows that we must make sure that learners demonstrate not only good skills, but also safe attitudes and proper understanding of road conditions before they are allowed to drive unsupervised. We will build improved learning opportunities and assessments to support these standards, as well as strengthen the quality of driving instruction available. We will also provide new opportunities for learning both before and after the driving test. This will help new drivers become better, safer, motorists and save lives.

Our proposals include:

a new foundation course, available at schools and colleges, leading to a qualification on safe road use.

a more focused and thorough learning process before the driving test, which focuses not just on vehicle control but also

the wider skills needed to be a safe driver, from driving in difficult conditions—for example at night or in poor weather—to learning to predict and respond to other road users' intentions;

a new training syllabus to ensure learners understand what is required of them to become a responsible driver, enable them to undertake structured and efficient learning and accurately assess when they are ready to pass their driving test;

an improved driving test which requires the driver to demonstrate independent driving skills and clear understanding of different situations on the road, with the option of modular assessment;

new opportunities to take extra training post-test; working with the insurance industry and employers in the driving for work sector we will develop new courses and qualifications to be taken after the driving test that could lead to lower premiums and a better chance of securing a career in the driving for work sector;

a star rating system for driving instructors so that learners can make an informed choice based on pass rates and the level of training instructors have undergone; and

a review of driving instructor training and testing to ensure they provide a quality service and are focussed on those areas of driving performance that are closely linked to safe driving.

In addition to the consultation document being published today, we also intend to publish within the next few months a consultation paper on how we intend to crack down on the reckless minority and deliver improved road safety enforcement and compliance.

Copies of the consultation document have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 8 May 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Information Packs

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): I am today laying amendments to the home information pack regulations to extend the temporary first day marketing provision, and to extend the temporary provision requiring HIPs to include the "lease" only and to "authorise" other leasehold documents, from 1 June to 31 December 2008.

The temporary first day marketing provision allows a property to be marketed without a HIP where the documents required for inclusion in the HIP have been commissioned and paid for, or arrangement for payment been made and are expected to arrive within 28 days.

We introduced the temporary first day marketing provision in order to help smooth the implementation of HIPs, and our evidence shows that it has been effective in doing this. However, we believe that a further period of the flexibility provided by the measure would be prudent. I am, therefore, laying an order to amend the home information packs regulations to extend the provision from 1 June to 31 December 2008.

The temporary provision requiring HIPs to include the "lease" only, and to "authorise" other leasehold documents was introduced in response to concerns about delays and additional costs in obtaining leasehold information. This provision is also due to expire on 31 May 2008.

At the time the provision was introduced we also commissioned Ted Beardsall, deputy chief executive of the Land Registry, to undertake a short assessment of the scale and nature of the problems with leasehold information and to advise on possible solutions. Ted Beardsall's assessment confirms that there are a number of longstanding issues in the provision and cost of leasehold information, which HIPs have thrown the spotlight on. It agrees that the inclusion of all leasehold information prior to marketing would cause serious difficulties; and recommends further work to resolve them.

What is clear from the assessment is that it would be premature to lift the current temporary requirement for the lease only, before carrying out the further work it recommends. I am also, therefore, laying an order to amend the home information pack regulations to extend the temporary provision for leasehold requirements from 1 June until 31 December 2008.

In the interim period, I have asked Ted Beardsall to convene a working group of key industry representatives to develop the options identified in his assessment into practical solutions in respect of:

- The type of leasehold information that should be required within a HIP, and the form this should take, having regard to the information that buyers need, their availability and costs.
- Practical steps for helping to establish good practice for landlords and managing agents in the provision of leasehold information.

The working group will report to the Housing Minister in order to prepare and introduce final measures from 1 January 2009.

Home Information Packs were introduced to bring useful information up front in the home buying and selling process to increase transparency and create a better consumer experience of buying and selling a home. We are already seeing positive benefits from HIPs:

- lower up-front costs for first time buyers;
- greater competition in the property searches market leading to reductions in costs to consumers—over 80 local authorities now set lower searches fees, some by as much as £120;
- over 700, 000 homes now have energy performance certificates (EPCs);
- on average £300 per dwelling saving if their EPC recommendations are implemented; and
- over 640,000 HIPs produced, the majority within 7-14 days.

The amendments I have announced today, together with the extension of insurance cover for property searches which I announced on 6 March, will bring all temporary measures within the same timescale, providing industry with the certainty that the implementation of HIPs should be complete from 31 December 2008.

However, it is clear from our area trials and analysis of our monitoring that more needs to be done to ensure that consumers realise the full benefits of HIPs. In particular, to ensure that consumers get to see and are able to use the HIP. Over the coming months, therefore, we will also take action to:

- further build on the quality of the HIP, working with industry in developing innovative solutions to enhance the current product; and
- ensure that consumers see and fully benefit from the information contained in the HIP early in the process, and encourage better practice standards and services consumers get.

Consumers want more general information about the property they are looking to buy—information they can relate to. Although the current HIP contains information that can be helpful to consumers and professionals alike, it is clear that we can go further in providing consumers with easily accessible information that will help in their decision to buy a home. Information on access, boundaries, changes made to the property and fixtures and fittings are currently authorised for inclusion in the HIP. However, this information is not currently being provided as part of the majority of HIPs.

In order to maximise the potential of HIPs in providing consumers with the information they want, we will develop in partnership with the property professionals means for capturing consumer-friendly information for inclusion within the HIP. This will draw on the lessons learnt from our area trials and consumer focus groups. Industry stakeholders are also actively developing complementary initiatives to build on the content of the HIP, including an "exchange-ready pack"—a pack with consumer-facing documents and legal information, including a draft contract to enable swift exchange and

completion once an offer has been accepted. We will continue to work with our stakeholder panel to consider this and other initiatives for building on the quality of the HIP.

We recognise that many agents are not showing prospective buyers the HIP and that consumers are not requesting to see it. We have asked the industry to respond to this consumer need by working with us to promote higher and consistent standards of practice that delivers better services to consumers, and to raise consumer awareness of the service standards they should expect and what they can do if things go wrong. In particular we will:

work with our stakeholder panel to support the RICS, the Law Society, the NAEA and other stakeholders who are currently exploring what can be done to bring together best practice into a single set of standards that consumers can expect from property professionals in the home buying and selling process;

work with the industry to ensure that agents and HIP providers understand and act on the requirement to prepare the "basic HIP" as soon as the EPC is produced, so that it is available to potential buyers early in the process; and

consider what more might be needed to ensure that consumers are protected throughout the home buying and selling process.

I believe these measures will provide greater certainty and stability to consumers and industry about the operation of HIPs.

DEFENCE

Future Rapid Effect System

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) is a long-term programme to deliver a medium weight armoured vehicle fleet with higher levels of deployability and survivability than the current fleet of in-service vehicles, with the potential to grow its capability as new technology becomes available. FRES is an incremental programme to replace parts of the Army's Saxon, FV 430 and CVR(T) vehicle fleets and deliver a new medium weight capability. It is the Army's top equipment priority behind support to current operations.

In November 2007 we announced that the Utility Vehicle design trials had been successfully completed on schedule, and that a recommendation had been produced primarily based on technical design considerations. Further work has been completed with all three potential providers, to clarify the commercial implications of their proposals. I can now announce that we have provisionally selected the Piranha 5, offered by General Dynamics (UK) Ltd, as the preferred design to be taken forward to the next stage of the Utility Vehicle programme.

This decision was made by following the guiding principles of a competitive assessment to select a design that best met the Army's requirement for a combination of value for money through life, timely delivery, high performance and growth potential.

Piranha 5's confirmation as the preferred design will be subject to the completion of a package of work on risk reduction to ensure it will provide the Ministry of Defence the best possible capability at the right price and at the earliest opportunity.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DFID Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I am today laying before Parliament the Department for International Development's departmental report 2008.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 9 May 2008

HEALTH

"Leading Local Change" (NHS Next Stage Review)

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): In my oral statement of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 297, I notified the House that my noble Friend Lord Darzi had published an interim report as part of the NHS Next Stage Review. I am writing to update the House on the progress of the review as Lord Darzi has today published "Leading Local Change".

The Prime Minister and I asked Lord Darzi to lead the review in July 2007. His interim report in October set out a vision for a world class NHS that is fair, personal, effective and safe.

The review has been led locally by clinicians in each NHS region. Seventy-four local clinical working groups, made up of some 2,000 clinicians, have been looking at the clinical evidence and engaging with their local communities. They have developed improved models of care for their regions to ensure that the NHS is up to date with the latest clinical developments and is able to meet changing needs and expectations.

Lord Darzi is today publishing "Leading Local Change" to set the context for these local visions and the principles which will guide their implementation. We are also publishing new operational guidance, as promised in October's interim report, to help ensure that any changes are based on clinical evidence and are in the best interest of patients. As part of this, we are making five pledges on change in the NHS, which primary care trusts will have a duty to have regard to:

change will always be to the benefit of patients. This means that they will improve the quality of care that patients receive—whether in terms of clinical outcomes, experiences, or safety;

change will be clinically driven. We will ensure that change is to the benefit of patients by making sure that it is always led by clinicians and based on the best available clinical evidence;

all change will be locally-led. Meeting the challenge of being a universal service means the NHS must meet the different needs of everyone. Universal is not the same as uniform. Different places have different and changing needs—and local needs are best met by local solutions;

local communities will be involved. The local NHS will involve patients, carers, the public and other key partners. Those affected by proposed changes will have the chance to have their say and offer their contribution. NHS organisations will work openly and collaboratively; and

local communities will see the difference first. Existing services will not be withdrawn until new and better services are available to patients so they can see the difference.

The nine strategic health authorities (SHAs) outside London will be publishing their strategic visions for improving health and healthcare in their regions over the coming weeks in accordance with the following timetable.

The SHA strategic visions will be published as follows:

12 May	East of England
14 May	Yorkshire and Humber
15 May	South West
19 May	South Central
20 May	North West
22 May	North East
2 June	South East Coast
3 June	West Midlands
5 June	East Midlands

Lord Darzi will publish his final report in June. It will be designed to enable and support the improvements that have been determined locally in the SHA strategic visions.

I firmly believe that this approach, led by clinicians, based on clinical evidence and strong engagement with local communities, is how changes to the NHS should take place as we move from an NHS that is world class in many aspects to one which is world class in everything it does.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Correction to Written Answer

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): It has been brought to my attention that the reply I gave the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell, (Chris Grayling), 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 780-81W, omitted the information about contributory jobseeker's allowance. I apologise for this oversight.

The correct answer should have been:

Neither income related jobseeker's allowance, nor income support are payable to people who live outside Great Britain. Contributory jobseeker's allowance can, under certain circumstances, be exported to other European economic area countries and Switzerland. Further, 0.45 per cent. only of incapacity benefits claimants live abroad.

An EC regulation co-ordinates member states' social security schemes for workers who move between member states. The EC regulation provides that generally, sickness and invalidity benefits must be exported if a beneficiary moves to another member state, although there are some restrictions on the export of sickness benefit. In effect, people in Great Britain who qualify for contributory incapacity benefit (IB) because they have made sufficient national insurance contributions, can continue to receive their benefit if they take up permanent residence in one of the other EU member states. The agreement also extends to the states of the European economic area (EEA) and Switzerland. The UK also has reciprocal arrangements with a number of non-European countries (e.g. USA, Jamaica) some of which include similar arrangements for people from Great Britain to continue to receive contributory benefit when they move there and vice versa.

Of those receiving IB abroad most live in the Republic of Ireland and Spain and smaller numbers

across a wide range of other European countries. Very few live outside Europe. They include both British expatriates and nationals of other countries who have worked and paid contributions in Great Britain and have then returned to their own country. They also include "pro rata" cases where the benefit is paid partly by the UK and partly by a foreign authority as customers have contributed to insurance schemes in both Great Britain and an EEA state.

Information is not available for exported jobseeker's allowance other than at disproportionate cost. The available information for incapacity benefits is in the table.

Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance Claimants in Great Britain and Abroad: as at May each year

Quarter ending	*GB*	*Claimants living abroad*
1998	2,784,500	9,400
1999	2,744,300	9,000
2000	2,728,090	10,230
2001	2,795,340	10,430
2002	2,807,630	10,800
2003	2,815,660	11,300
2004	2,814,710	11,740
2005	2,783,720	12,130
2006	2,730,000	12,050
2007	2,685,320	12,010

Notes:
1.Caseload figures prior to May 2000 are rounded to the nearest 100, and to the nearest 10 thereafter.
2. Incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimant figures include IB credits only cases.
3. Caseload figures prior to May 2000 have been produced using 5 per cent. data and rated up proportionally using 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
4. Great Britain totals may include a small number of claimants living abroad.
5. It is possible to receive IB/SDA in another country in the European economic area (EEA) or a country which has a social security agreement with the United Kingdom, or short-term IB for up to 26 weeks under certain conditions.
Source:
IAD Information Centre 5 per cent. samples—May 1998 to May 1999 and DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 100 per cent. data—May 2000 onwards.

National Insurance Numbers

The Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform (Mr. Stephen Timms): Over the course of 2008 the Government are reintroducing procedures to count foreign nationals in and out of the UK. We are introducing ID cards for foreign nationals, on a compulsory basis, to guard against fraudulent access to jobs and benefits. As part of our cross-governmental enforcement strategy, the DWP will further tighten the criteria for national insurance number (NINO) allocation to ensure that where the partner of a legitimate benefit claimant has no right to be in the UK, DWP will no longer issue the partner with a NINO. This follows the successful introduction of right to work interviews for those applying for national insurance numbers in 2006.

This change will be made using the regulation-making powers under section 1 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992. The intention is that regulation changes will be introduced at the earliest opportunity.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 12 May 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Farepak

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): Following my written statement on Farepak of 10 December, I would like to report to the House that the investigation into Farepak and other companies in the European Home Retail group has been completed.

The Investigation

The investigation has taken longer than expected to complete because it involved collecting and often reconstructing the financial and other records of a group of companies, including Farepak, which had ceased to trade and were in administration. The report is over 700 pages long and could lead to court proceedings, so taking short cuts in the investigation was not an option.

Legal advice is being obtained on the report to decide what further action is merited. This is a process which must be carried out confidentially to avoid prejudicing any action that may result and to protect the reputations and interests of those whose conduct is being scrutinised, but in respect of whom no decisions have yet been made. As I said in my earlier statement, if proceedings are taken against any party involved, this will become public knowledge if or when the case reaches open court. We will do everything in our power to process this quickly.

The report cannot in any case be published because there is no provision for reports carried out under the Companies Act such as these (under Section 447) to be published. In fact unauthorised disclosure is a criminal offence.

The Government have great sympathy with those people who have lost money they saved as a result of the collapse of Farepak. We are doing all we can to prevent other families suffering similar problems in the future. BERR has worked with the remaining hamper companies to put in place effective protection for customers' prepayments. The Government have given the OFT funding for a new awareness campaign so that consumers are better aware of their options for Christmas savings. My Department is now considering the report, alongside other advice received, to assess whether further action, including possible new regulation, is necessary in the light of the action which has been taken by the surviving Christmas savings schemes.

The report is also being disclosed to the Accountancy and Actuarial Discipline Board (AADB) to assist in the investigation that it announced in June 2007 into the role of accountants within Farepak and other companies.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Antisemitism (Government Response)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): I am pleased to announce that I am today laying before Parliament and publishing the Government's one year on response to the all-party inquiry into antisemitism.

Just over a year ago the Government responded to the all-party parliamentary inquiry into antisemitism report and undertook to report back to Parliament on progress in implementing its recommendations.

We believe the best way to tackle antisemitism is through effective implementation of strong legislation against racial and religious discrimination and racially and religiously motivated crime. This must be underpinned by policies and strategies to increase racial equality and build community cohesion, particularly through education.

We have made significant progress against the 35 recommendations made by the all-party parliamentary inquiry's constructive and comprehensive report. We have ensured that by April 2009 all police forces will collect data on all hate crime, including antisemitism; agreed that schools and authorities can use their devolved capital funding for investment in security at schools where this is a priority; committed to funding research on the impact of antisemitic discourse; and launched the race for justice declaration—a cross-Government strategy which aims to combat all forms of hate crime.

Despite this progress, there is no room for complacency, and we will continue to take practical, effective action to stamp out antisemitism whenever and wherever it occurs. We are committed to increasing the number of hate crimes brought to prosecution, tackling antisemitism on university campuses, and challenging hate crime and extremism on the internet. We have agreed to continue our support of the cross-departmental and Jewish stakeholder working group and will report back to parliament on further progress in 2010.

This publication is available in the Libraries of both Houses.

East of England Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities is today publishing the East of England plan (the revision to the East of England regional spatial strategy) together with the accompanying supporting statement, which includes a summary of the consultation responses and a sustainability statement. This is the first of a series of comprehensive reviews of regional spatial strategy to be completed under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The final East of England plan reflects consideration of responses to the consultations on the Secretary of State's proposed changes and further proposed changes which

were made in the light of the recommendations of the independent panel who conducted an examination in public into the draft plan.

The East of England plan is crucial to putting in place the Government's sustainable growth strategy within the East of England. It builds on the foundations of the draft East of England plan, which was prepared by the East of England regional assembly and the findings of the independent panel who conducted an examination in public.

The East of England plan replaces the regional planning guidance for East Anglia and relevant parts of the regional planning guidance for the South East within the regional spatial strategy for the East of England. Its main purpose is to provide a framework for local planning authorities to prepare their development plan documents, which must be in general conformity with it.

The strategy aims to guide development in the East of England to 2021 and to set in place a direction of travel for the longer term. It requires the provision of 508,000 dwellings within the region between 2001 and 2021.

The plan adopts the independent panel's conclusion that a case for higher growth was made but that it must and can be reconciled with sustainability and environmental constraints. The plan supports a spatial strategy with development focused on the main urban areas, such as Cambridge, Peterborough and Stevenage, including the growth points at Norwich, Colchester, Ipswich and Thetford. It identifies Hemel Hempstead, Welwyn/Hatfield and Chelmsford as additional growth locations close to London.

Other aspects of the plan include the regional transport strategy, the waste strategy, policies for achieving efficiency savings in water and energy consumption, and policies for improving water resource and waste water infrastructure. The Plan reflects the increased urgency to reduce carbon emissions requiring local authorities to promote renewable and low carbon energy development and the regional assembly to develop regional targets for the carbon performance of new development.

In regard to the green belt, the plan provides that the review at Harlow extend to the north of the town and the review at Welwyn Hatfield may extend into St Albans. It adds additional guidance on the basis for assessing the area to be released and requires compensatory green belt extensions to the north of Harlow and west of Stevenage, which will increase the extent of green belt in the region. In regard to transport the plan identifies priority areas where further measures are needed to tackle congestion and support growth.

The plan was subject to assessment under the habitats regulations. The sustainability statement concludes that the plan is in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and that the additional growth and changes to distribution do not give rise to adverse environmental impacts.

Reflecting the levels of development confirmed through the plan, we are today confirming that five districts are be included in the growth areas with growth area funding confirmed. Chelmsford and St Edmundsbury are brought within the London Stansted Cambridge Peterborough growth area and Dacorum, St Albans, and Welwyn Hatfield are included in the growth area programme with further discussions with partners about which growth area they should be part of. We are also confirming King's Lynn's bid for growth point status.

The plan represents a step change in addressing housing needs but falls short of what will be required based on likely growth in households. The regional assembly is about to commence a further review of the RSS covering the period to 2031 for completion by 2011, which will be informed by Government guidance on the range of housing provision required. We are also asking the assembly, working with partners, to carry out a single issue review focussed on regeneration of Thurrock Lakeside, including the regional shopping centre.

The RSS review is a key milestone in putting in place sustainable higher growth and setting the strategic planning context for decision makers in the East of England. The crucial task now is to ensure it is implemented quickly and effectively. We look forward to working with the local authorities, local delivery vehicles and other key partners on its delivery.

Copies of the East of England plan, together with the sustainability report are available in the Libraries of both Houses and have been provided for all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

DEFENCE

UN Forces (Cyprus)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): A new call-out order has been made under Section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable members of the reserve forces to continue to be called out into permanent service and deployed to Cyprus as part of the UK's contribution to the United Nations forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Currently some 35 reservists are deployed as part of 7 Transport Regiment RLC which will be followed with a deployment of over 250 reservists in October. The call-out order has effect until 30 April 2009.

HEALTH

Care and Support Reform

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): In October 2007, the comprehensive spending review contained a commitment that the Government would undertake work to look at reform options for the care and support system and consult on a way forward. It also stated that the Government would set out a process involving extensive public engagement, ultimately leading to a Green Paper identifying key issues and options for reform.

Today we are launching a six month engagement process with the public and all those involved in care and support for adults to set out clearly the case for

reform, and to consult on a number of questions. This is set out in the document "The Case for Change—Why England Needs a New Care and Support System", which is being published today to mark the beginning of this engagement process. The responses to these questions will inform the development of a number of reform options, to be set out in the Green paper.

This process, although led by the Department of Health, involves work across a number of other Government Departments, reflecting the fact that care and support encompasses many different types of services and assistance. Ensuring effective and sustainable care and support in a society where people are living longer is one of the major public policy challenges of our time. This engagement process is an opportunity for the public to help shape a response to this challenge.

A copy of the document has been placed in the Library, and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 13 May 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations Part G

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I am today publishing a consultation document on options for revising part G of the building regulations addressing sanitation, hot water safety and water efficiency in buildings.

This consultation follows a wide-ranging review of part G of the building regulations and delivers on two Government commitments:

to introduce into the building regulations a whole-building water efficiency standard of 125 litres per person per day for new homes. We announced this water efficiency policy last July following an earlier consultation; and

to review how part G and the associated guidance addresses hot water safety. This follows a statement released by my predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) last June on the safety of hot water systems and on the risk of scalding from hot water.

The consultation package, which includes an impact assessment of options, seeks views on a number of changes to the regulations and supporting guidance, and invites consultees to provide us with information on other options. The main areas we are consulting on are, in summary:

proposals to update and bring part G (hygiene) and the guidance in the associated approved document into line with current standards, legislation and industry practice;

the proposed inclusion of a new section on cold water services which would specify locations within the building where a supply of "wholesome" water is required, and which in turn makes it possible to allow the use of "non-wholesome" water in other locations, such as the use of captured rainwater for toilet flushing;

proposals that bring into effect the Government's policy on water efficiency;

proposed measures to provide for consistent safety of hot water systems; and

a request for more information on the costs and benefits to allow further exploration into the possibility of limiting the temperature of water delivered to sanitary appliances to prevent scalding.

The Government would like to support a provision that would help reduce the risk of scalding incidents from sanitary appliances, and we are aware of the support this would have from many hon. Members and other stakeholders. However, our initial analysis of such a provision suggests that the costs of such measures are considerably out of proportion to the benefits they would deliver. Unfortunately, this means it is not currently possible for us to bring forward a definite proposal for consultation. However, as part of this consultation we are inviting more information to be provided to inform our analysis.

The consultation is accompanied by impact assessments and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/partgconsultation.

The consultation closes on 5 August 2008.

DEFENCE

Spring Performance Report

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I have today placed in the Library of the House copies of the Ministry of Defence's spring performance report. This shows that the armed forces, supported by their civilian colleagues, have consistently and reliably continued to make progress towards their military strategic objectives, including a secure environment and security sector reform in Iraq and Afghanistan. In so doing they are also making a significant contribution towards the Government's wider conflict prevention goals, where we have made some encouraging progress. The Department is also on course to exceed the efficiency goals set in the 2004 spending review, and over the spending review period has continued to deliver against almost all of the targets for equipment acquisition, although we do not expect to have achieved the 2007-08 target for average in-year slippage in forecast in-service dates.

The continuing high operational tempo means that the armed forces cannot simultaneously be ready for the full range of potential contingent operations provided for in planning assumptions, and we do not now expect to have met the readiness target. And although overall activity levels have fallen, the operational tempo is also still preventing achievement of harmony guidelines in parts of the Army and the Royal Air Force. The challenge of implementing the changes in service personnel numbers announced in the July 2004 White Paper while sustaining the high operational tempo means that we have also not made as much progress as we originally planned towards achieving manning balance across all three services, and we therefore do not now expect the Royal Navy or Army to have achieved manning balance by April 2008.

RAF Hercules ZH876 Board of Inquiry

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am able to inform the House today of the findings of the Royal Air Force board of inquiry (BOI) into the loss of the RAF C130J Hercules ZH876 in Iraq on 12 February 2007.

The purpose of a board of inquiry is to establish the circumstances of the loss and to learn lessons from it; it does not seek to apportion blame.

The board of inquiry was convened on 13 February 2007 and considered a mass of evidence. The board established that, on 12 February 2007, Hercules C130J ZH876 was on a routine operational passenger flight to conduct a roulement of troops, landing at a tactical landing zone (TLZ) in Maysaan province, South East Iraq. As the aircraft was about to touch down, it was subjected to an improvised explosive device (IED) attack

which damaged the aircraft. The captain brought the aircraft to a stop and ordered the aircraft's evacuation. All passengers and crew evacuated successfully, only slight injuries having been sustained.

A second RAF Hercules aircraft was in the vicinity of the TLZ on another task, and offered to provide assistance. It subsequently landed to recover the crew and passengers who were due to depart on ZH876. This second aircraft sustained minor damage on landing as a result of running through some debris from ZH876. This damage was later repaired at its detachment base and the aircraft was quickly returned to service the next day.

Due to operational considerations, ZH876 was judged to be unrecoverable. Consequently, it was destroyed by coalition forces on 13 February 2007, in order to deny enemy forces any exploitation opportunities.

Following extensive investigation, the board concluded that the cause of the accident was the detonation of two arrays of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) buried along the edge of the landing strip at the TLZ. The board of inquiry commended the crew on its handling of the immediate aftermath of the explosion and the successful evacuation of the aircraft. Further, the board stated that, even if the aircraft had been fitted with explosion suppressant foam, it would not have reduced the damage sustained by the aircraft in the IED attack.

The BOI report and a military aircraft accident summary are being placed in the Library of the House and on the MOD's public internet site. As you will appreciate, the safety of our people is a principal consideration and we have therefore removed from both documents any information that might endanger the security or capability of UK and coalition personnel, or be of use to an enemy. We have, however, tried to be as open as possible and have carefully considered the public interest arguments for and against disclosure of the information in the report. We have ensured that each redaction is justified by an appropriate exemption in the Freedom of Information Act.

I remind the House that the purpose of the Inquiry is to identify those factors which contributed to the loss and indicate lessons for the future. The board made a number of recommendations that we are studying closely. Indeed, we have acted on many of them already. The main recommendation was that TLZ search procedures must be revised prior to the resumption of TLZ usage in Op TELIC. Furthermore, once cleared, a TLZ must be constantly monitored prior to use. The National Search Centre, in conjunction with relevant units, has further developed the force protection search section of RAF Regiment procedures. These are now being used by force protection teams on operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The board of inquiry into the loss of Hercules ZH876 is now complete. I express my gratitude to the president of the board and his team for their painstaking work.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

CEFAS

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): I have set the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) the following performance targets for 2008-09:

SERVICE DELIVERY

Customer satisfaction to exceed 82 per cent.

To provide high standard of services to the satisfaction of customers. Measured through weighted average of customer response to post-contract survey that covers seven aspects of service quality.

Delivery of R&D milestones to exceed 90 per cent.

To fulfil commitments on time, within budget and to agreed standards of quality. Covers R&D milestones which support DEFRA's strategic objectives and intermediate outcomes. Performance is reported as a proportion of agreed outputs weighted by contract value.

Science quality indicators to exceed 75 per cent.

To enhance scientific capability and reputation, using indicators grouped around research, wider dissemination and use of our science, and scientific capability. Measures include customer surveys, numbers of peer reviewed scientific papers and investment in new science.

VALUE FOR PUBLIC MONEY

Recover the full cost of our services

To demonstrate financial sustainability through sound operational financial management and appropriate investment in CEFAS's future, including the delivery of CEFAS's transformation plan. Measured through achieving an audited break-even result in 2008-09.

Efficiency savings to LSP plans

To operate with simple, reliable and effective processes in the support and delivery of customer projects. Performance against peer and competitor benchmarks will be used to monitor progress to deliver financial efficiency targets. These are set out in the re-phased LSP plans and include reducing administrative headcount and costs.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Relocate Burnham on Crouch in 2008-09

To invest in transformation in line with CEFAS's long-term strategy, with successful relocation of Burnham on Crouch laboratories to Lowestoft during 2008-09 being a major milestone.

Staff satisfaction survey to exceed 65 per cent.

To respect and help the agency's people to develop. Measured by an annual questionnaire to staff, using a weighted scale for the eight survey categories.

Further details are given in the CEFAS business plan 2008-09, copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

HE Student Support (Annual Uprating)

The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell): The level of support for loans, grants and fees that will be available to eligible higher education students in the 2009-10 academic year will be broadly 2.6 per cent. higher than for 2008-09, in line with forecast price increases.

For students who have entered higher education on or after 1 September 2006 and are being charged variable fees, the maximum fee payable will increase from £3,145 to £3,225 in 2009-10. The increase to the fee will be matched by a corresponding increase to the loan for fees that students can take out.

For students who are not being charged variable fees (primarily students who entered higher education before 1 September 2006), the maximum fee contribution payable will increase from £1,255 to £1,285.

The increased fee amounts will be authorised by the Student Fees (Amounts) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, which will be laid before Parliament in due course.

For students who are eligible for the maintenance grant, or the equivalent alternative special support grant, the maximum amount of grant available will increase from £2,835 to £2,906.

For most students, the maximum amount of the basic maintenance loan will increase from £4,625 to £4,745. For students studying in London, the maximum amount will increase from £6,475 to £6,643, while for students continuing to live at home while studying, the maximum amount will increase from £3,580 to £3,673.

I am placing a memorandum in the Library which gives full details of the increased loan, grant and fee rates for 2009-10. All these rates are being incorporated into the Education (Student Support) (No. 2) Regulations 2008, which will also be laid before Parliament in due course.

JUSTICE

Appointment to the Boundary Commission for Wales

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I should like to inform the House that I have, under Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, appointed Mr David John Bader as a member of the Boundary Commission for Wales. The appointment is effective from 1 May 2008 until 30 April 2013.

WALES

Legislative Competence Order (Housing)

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Housing) Order has been laid today, as Command Paper (7379). Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library from 12 noon. I have written to the Chairmen of the Welsh Affairs Committee and the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 14 May 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 14 May 2008. Items on the agenda are as follows:

QUALITY OF PUBLIC FINANCES: EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL TRANSFERS AND EDUCATION

Member states will be invited to adopt Council conclusions on the quality of public finances following a discussion at the informal ECOFIN in Brdo, Slovenia in April. This builds on conclusions on the quality of public finances agreed under the German and Portuguese presidencies in 2007.

WESTERN BALKANS INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

Member states will be invited to adopt Council conclusions on the next steps on the Western Balkans investment framework. Progress on the investment framework, which will bring together the donor funding streams for the Western Balkans, is a priority for the Slovenian presidency. The UK supports work on the framework, which was discussed at the informal ECOFIN.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

i) Financial Stability Arrangements: Supervision, Including an Update of the Roadmaps

Following discussions at the informal ECOFIN, member states will be invited to agree a unified set of Council conclusions on arrangements on financial stability and supervision. The EFC has prepared the draft Council conclusions on supervision and an update of the roadmaps on "Review of the Lamfalussy Process", "Strengthening EU Arrangements for Financial Stability", and "On Actions Taken in Response to the Financial Turmoil".

ii) Communication on Financial Education

The Council will be asked to agree to draft Council conclusions on financial education, which suggest some initiatives and practical assistance for helping member states to improve the levels of financial education within their countries.

iii) White Paper on Mortgage Credits

Member states will be invited to agree to draft Council conclusions on a possible single market for mortgages. The UK supports voluntary initiatives that may improve EU market efficiency rather than harmonising consumer protection rules.

DIALOGUES WITH THIRD COUNTRIES: ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

The Council will receive an oral update from the Commission on the state of play of the dialogues with third countries, and it will discuss the economic and financial issues of the EU-US summit preparation and the ASEM Finance Ministers Meeting.

TAXATION

i) Indirect Taxation: Fight Against Tax Fraud

The Commission will debrief the Council orally on the state of play of the consideration of measures to combat tax fraud, as requested by the December 2007 ECOFIN. member states will also be asked to agree Council conclusions on VAT fraud. The UK is strongly supportive of work that will help in the fight against missing trader intra-community (MTIC) and other VAT fraud, while remaining committed to minimising the burdens on legitimate businesses.

ii) Savings Taxation

The Commission will provide an informal oral report on the functioning of the savings tax directive in view of recent developments involving Liechtenstein investment vehicles and following the request of the March ECOFIN Council. The UK strongly supports the Commission's continued dialogue with third countries with a view to bringing them into the savings tax directive.

iii) Good Governance in the Tax Area

Member states will be invited to agree draft conclusions containing a specific provision on good governance in the tax area, which is to be added to relevant agreements to be concluded by the Community and its member states with third countries.

STRATEGY FOR THE EVOLUTION OF THE CUSTOMS UNION

Following the presentation by the Commission of its communication "Strategy for the Evolution of the Customs Union" in April, marking the 40-year anniversary of the customs union, the Council will be invited to adopt draft Council conclusions prepared by the customs working party.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET 2009

The Commission will present the preliminary draft general budget (PDB) for 2009 to the Council. The presentation and publication of the PDB signals the start of the annual budget procedure, of which the next step will be the "first reading" by the Council in July 2008.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

First Time Buyers

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): This statement sets out the steps we are taking to provide more opportunities for first-time buyers to access the housing market.

The vast majority of people in this country aspire to owning their own home. People value the security of homeownership, the sense of having a stake in the community, and the chance to build up assets.

Rising prosperity in this country over recent years, with high employment and low interest rates, has meant that more people have been able to aspire to homeownership. Since 1997, there are 1 million more households who own their own home. One hundred and ten thousand have benefited from our low cost home ownership programmes, enabling them to get a first foot on the property ladder.

However, a fundamental mismatch between supply and demand has now put house prices far beyond the reach of many, particularly first-time buyers. Ten years ago, the average house price was just 3.5 times the average income. Now, the average house costs more than seven times the average income. And while interest rates have fallen, the result is still that fewer first-time buyers are able to enter the market. Not only is this a potential brake on aspiration and social mobility, it may also cause stagnation in the rest of the market.

The long-term solution is to build more homes to overcome this housing shortage. This is why we are embarking on a major housing supply programme under which we want to see outputs rising to 240,000 new homes a year by 2016. But in the short-term, we want to do more to ensure that more potential first-time buyers are able to enter the property market.

The current market situation makes this more difficult. Last week we announced a package of measures to help support home owners, including measures to ensure that financial advice and support is available for borrowers who may be facing difficulties with their mortgage.

But we also want to see mortgages available for those who can sustain home ownership, and at the same time we want to support housebuilding.

Through our shared equity schemes, we already aim to help 75,000 more householders on to the property ladder over the next three years. Today I am announcing how we can go even further than that by focusing spending to support the housing market and those looking to get on the housing ladder. In the Budget the Government announced two new open market homebuy products offering greater affordability to first-time buyers. We have also announced a purchase assistance grant of £1,500 to the first 2,000 purchasers to help them with the costs of moving into a new home.

Today I am announcing an expansion of the eligibility criteria for these products so that more people can benefit. It is right that we continue to give priority to key workers and tenants in the social rented sector. But from today both the new build homebuy and open market homebuy products will also be open to all first-time buyers with a household income below £60,000 who could not otherwise afford to buy. This will allow, for instance those who work in public services but who are employed by the private sector, to access this support.

In addition we are focusing up to £100 million spending to expand open market homebuy to help an additional 2,500 first-time buyers purchase a newly built home in 2008-09. Purchasers will be able to apply to use the new shared equity products announced on the 1 of April to purchase a new-build home of their choice on the open market. The new products help to improve affordability to buyers by offering an equity loan of up to 50 per cent. of property value. This scheme will make a wide choice of new property open to prospective buyers while also helping to support the new build market and maintain housing supply.

This change will more than double the number of families helped by the new open market homebuy products this year.

Alongside this, we are maintaining our commitment to deliver much needed social rented homes, keeping up delivery in 2008-09 and with a target of 45,000 such homes in 2010-11.

The current market also provides opportunities for housing associations to buy new properties from housebuilders at competitive prices. The Housing Corporation has already been working with housing associations and housebuilders to take advantage of these opportunities. In the first three months of the year, housing associations bought 1,800 homes from developers through the national affordable housing programme. Nearly 840 of these were for low cost home ownership and 935 were for social rent.

I have today asked the Housing Corporation to use flexibilities available to them in their current programme to fund more such purchases where they represent good value for money. The corporation estimates that it may be able to fund an additional £200 million of direct purchases from housebuilders in the current financial year, helping yet more families into low cost home ownership and rented accommodation.

A marketing campaign for all the homebuy products will be launched in partnership with lenders and housing associations in order to raise awareness of the new criteria. Government will work with the TUC and individual trade unions to promote these opportunities to their members.

Following Government's meeting with the Council of Mortgage Lenders and lenders, we will continue to work with a range of lenders to support a fair and well functioning UK mortgage market. We will also work with lenders to encourage them to develop their own shared equity products.

DEFENCE

Mr. Baha Mousa

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): In my statement of 25 January (Official Report, columns 65-66WS), I promised to make an announcement once I had reached a decision on what form any future inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Baha Mousa in Iraq in September 2003 might take.

After wide consultation and after considering the representations that I have received, and with the full support of the military chain of command, including the Chief of the Defence Staff and the Chief of the General Staff, I have decided that the right thing to do is to establish a public inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005. The inquiry will examine the circumstances surrounding the death of Baha Mousa. The terms of reference and other details will be made public once they have been established in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and the inquiry report will be published.

This reinforces my determination, and that of the Chief of the General Staff, to do everything we can to understand how it came to be that Mr Mousa lost his life. The Army has no wish to hide anything in this respect. It has looked at itself very critically since 2003, and has made a number of significant changes that were enumerated in Brigadier Aitken's report of January this year. It nevertheless remains anxious to learn all the lessons that it possibly can from this disturbing incident.

Overall, the conduct of tens of thousands of our people in Iraq has been exemplary; it is a tiny number who have caused a stain on the reputation of the British Army. But that does not mean we can allow these events to pass without looking into them thoroughly.

I hope this independent inquiry will reassure the public that no stone has been left unturned. The Army and the Ministry of Defence will be giving the fullest co-operation to this inquiry.

JUSTICE

Oakhill Secure Training Centre

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): In my written ministerial statement of 12 July 2007 (Official Report, col. 69WS), I undertook to update the House in relation to Oakhill secure training centre. The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have joint responsibility for youth justice. My right hon. Friend the Member for Stretford and Urmston (Beverley Hughes) is the lead minister for the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

My right hon. Friend and I wish to inform the House that the Youth Justice Board has decided to issue rectification notices to STC Milton Keynes Limited, the contractor responsible for the delivery of services at Oakhill STC. The contractor will be required to remedy the identified deficiencies. Rectification will include improvement in the number and training of staff provided and the education service.

This is the latest step taken by the Youth Justice Board in its management of this contract to ensure that the contractor delivers the services specified. The safety of the young people in the STC is of paramount importance and the YJB will be monitoring the position closely.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Draft Legislative Programme 2008-09

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I am pleased to announce that I am today publishing "The Government's Draft Legislative Programme 2008-09—Preparing Britain for the Future" (CM7372). The details of which will be available at www.commonsleader.gov.uk/draftprogramme and in the Vote Office later today.

The website will contain details of regional events being hosted by regional Ministers (www.commonsleader.gov.uk/regionalactivity). It will also contain a section where the public can comment on the Government's proposals (www.commonsleader.gov.uk/yourvoice). The consultation will close on 6 August 2008.

A summary of the programme will also be available at www.direct.gov.uk/draftprogramme.

I will announce shortly the date when Members will have the opportunity to debate this on the Floor of the House.

PRIME MINISTER

Prison Service Pay Review Body

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have reappointed Jerry Cope for a second term as chairman of the Prison Service Pay Review Body, commencing April 2008. This reappointment has been conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments guidance on appointments to public bodies.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 15 May 2008

TREASURY

Valuation Office Agency

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): I have today set the following key performance indicators for the Valuation Office Agency for 2008-09:

Customer Satisfaction

To achieve overall customer satisfaction of 90 per cent.

Operations

To enable prompt issue of correct bills by local authorities through clearance of rating reports within an average of 12 working days and council tax reports within an average of 14 working days in England and 12 working days in Wales.

To enable prompt issue of tax assessments by clearing all HMRC initial appraisal cases for inheritance tax within an average of eight days and for capital gains tax within an average of 11 days.

To contain reductions in the 2005 rating lists to a maximum of 4.2 per cent. of the total compiled list-rateable value, over the entire life of the lists.

To ensure that 96 per cent. of new council tax bandings are right first time.

Value for Money

To improve overall value for money on local taxation work by 3 per cent. per annum.

To improve value for money on inheritance tax work for HMRC by 5 per cent.

People

All staff to have the core skills and competencies for their role within six months of taking up a post.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Ofqual

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I announced in a statement to the House on 2 April the establishment in interim form of the new independent regulator of qualifications and tests, known as Ofqual. In the Government's Draft Legislative Programme published yesterday (Cm 7372) we announced that we intend to legislate to establish the regulator as part of an Education and Skills Bill in the 2008-09 session. I am today publishing an exchange of letters with Kathleen Tattersall OBE, the chair of Ofqual, prior to the launch event for Ofqual tomorrow.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Casework Performance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to set and meet a timetable for the majority of planning cases which are to be decided by her (as opposed to being decided by a planning inspector) and to make a report to Parliament each year on performance. This is intended both to ensure that such cases are dealt with expeditiously and to enable the parties to any particular case to know when they can expect to receive a decision.

The Secretary of State has accordingly today laid before Parliament an Act paper reporting on performance on all decisions made between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008. During this period, 100 per cent. of the 131 decisions made by the Secretary of State on cases other than appeals against refusals of consent for works to trees covered by tree preservation orders were made within their statutory timetables, as were 617 out of 627 decisions (98.4 per cent.) on tree preservation order appeals.

Statutory timetables apply to decisions on called-in planning applications; planning appeals recovered for the Secretary of State's decision; other cases "linked" to such decisions, including listed building consent, conservation area consent, advertisement consent and enforcement notice appeals; and tree preservation order appeals. They do not apply to cases decided by inspectors or to those decided by the Secretary of State jointly with a Minister of another Department

Espoo Convention (Bucharest 19-21 May)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The UK will be represented at official level at the fourth meeting of the parties to the UNECE convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context (the Espoo convention), to be held in Bucharest, Romania, from 19 to 21 May.

The meeting will be invited to adopt a work plan and budget to cover the period to the next meeting of the parties, around 2011, and decisions on good practice, co-operation and modifications to procedures, all designed to improve the effectiveness of the convention. None of the matters to be considered are expected to raise concerns about UK interests. We will support adoption of a work plan that is realistic and properly costed, and will contribute to the agreed costs of the convention.

Parties will be expected to indicate their intention to ratify a protocol to the Espoo convention on strategic environmental assessment (SEA). The UK signed this protocol in 2003 with the intention of ratifying as soon as measures needed for compliance were in place. It is now established that the UK is compliant with no requirement for specific measures and we therefore propose to confirm our intention to ratify the protocol.

DEFENCE

RAF Pumas (Board of Inquiry)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I wish to inform the House today of the findings of the Royal Air Force board of inquiry (BOI) into the accident involving Pumas XW211 and XW218 in Iraq in the early hours of 15 April 2007.

XW211 and XW218 were part of a Puma helicopter formation in support of coalition operations. The accident occurred when the lead aircraft, XW211, had landed and its passengers had disembarked. XW218 then tried to land next to XW211 but its main rotor blades hit those of XW211. Sadly, two personnel lost their lives and several received serious injuries. Our deepest sympathies remain with the families of those servicemen.

A BOI was convened that same day to establish the circumstances of the loss and to learn lessons from it; a BOI does not seek to apportion blame. The board concluded that the accident was caused by XW218 being positioned too close to XW211. A contributory factor was the difficulty of judging distances accurately to another rotating disc—that is, the main rotor blades—at close range.

The BOI and the chain of command made 17 recommendations that are now being studied closely, and some have already been implemented.

The BOI into the accident involving Pumas XW211 and XW218 is now complete. I express my gratitude to the president of the board and her team for their painstaking work.

A redacted version of the main body of the BOI report and the military aircraft accident summary (MAAS) will be available on the MOD internet site at http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/BoardsOfInquiry/. A copy of the MAAS is also being placed in the Library of the House. As you will appreciate, the safety of our people is a principal consideration and we have therefore removed from the BOI report information that might endanger the security or capability of UK and coalition personnel, or be of use to an enemy. We have, however, tried to be as open as possible and have carefully considered the public interest arguments both for and against disclosure of the information in the report. We have ensured that each redaction is fully justified by an appropriate exemption in the Freedom of Information Act.

The Ministry of Defence is co-operating fully with the Wiltshire coroner who will hold an inquest in due course.

Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): On 12 September 2007, I announced my decision that Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) and its intimate supporting elements, 1 Signal Brigade (1 Sig Bde) and 102 Logistic Brigade (102 Log Bde) should all move from Germany to the UK over the period 2009-14 (*Official Report* Columns 122WS - 124WS). I explained that this decision would need to be confirmed following scrutiny of the detailed plans for the moves, and that this work would start with the proposed move of HQ ARRC and its intimate supporting elements from Rhine Garrison in Monchengladbach to Innsworth in Gloucestershire.

Today I am announcing that the programme team's detailed plans for the move of HQ ARRC and its intimate supporting elements have been completed and scrutinised, and that I have decided that the move to Innsworth will take place in 2010, which fits with the MOD's current commitments and priorities and means that the site will still be fully revitalised in the near future. The Innsworth site was taken over by the Army on 1 April 2008 and it is being prepared to enable the necessary refurbishment and new build works to begin. In the meantime we will maintain all essential services at the site, undertake all necessary works services and work with the local authorities in Gloucestershire to prepare for the arrival of personnel, families and equipment in 2010.

The programme team will continue to consult with interested parties including the trade unions and, in Germany, we will continue to engage with the relevant authorities and employee representatives at national, regional and local levels.

Our NATO allies have been notified of this decision, including the German Government as host nation.

As far as the moves of 1 Sig Bde and 102 Log Bde are concerned, I announced on 31 January 2008 that the site occupied by the defence college of aeronautical engineering (DCAE) at Cosford in Shropshire is the MOD's preferred site for the two brigades (*Official Report* Columns 25WS-26WS). Detailed planning for these moves continues, as well as for a series of other moves within Germany to determine how best we can provide infrastructure support there once the planned moves to the UK have been completed. Under current assumptions, we envisage restructuring HQ United Kingdom support command (Germany) in Rheindahlen, which will result in a smaller support organisation integrated with HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division in Herford, and a discrete HQ being established in the UK to ensure necessary infrastructure support to overseas locations. All the moves and changes to the provision of infrastructure support will lead to the closure of Rhine garrison and Münster station, the latter completing the closure of Osnabrück garrison.

As stated in my previous announcement, these moves and the work of the programme team in no way signal a change in either our commitment to the NATO alliance or in our overall defence policy, nor do they in any way devalue the continued close bilateral defence relationship between the UK and Germany. Although we may make further modest adjustments to our force levels in Germany, our plan, with the continued agreement of the German Government, remains to base UK forces there in the form of HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division and the majority of its formations and supporting units—some 15,000 service personnel—for many years to come.

HEALTH

General Medical Council (Fitness to Practice Rules)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The General Medical Council (Fitness to Practise) (Amendment in Relation to Standard of Proof)

Rules Order of Council 2008 was laid before Parliament on 8 May. The General Medical Council has amended its Fitness to Practise Rules, the effect of which is to require the standard of proof that is applicable to civil proceedings to all proceedings before a Fitness to Practise panel or the Investigation Committee which commence on or after 31 May 2008. The GMC has written to all doctors whose cases may be affected by this change. These rules are not contingent on the changes in the law being proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Home Office Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): We have today published the Home Office's 2008 departmental report. Copies are available in the Vote Office and on the Home Office website. The report describes the work of the Home Office during 2007-08, in particular as reflected in its strategic objectives and key targets.

Serious Organised Crime Agency Annual Report 2007-08

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): The annual report of the Serious Organised Crime Agency for 2007-08 is being published and laid before Parliament today. As required by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, the report includes an assessment of the extent to which the annual plan for 2007-08 has been carried out.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office as soon as possible.

JUSTICE

Interception of Communications (Prison)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): On 29 January 2008, Simon Creighton of Bhatt Murphy wrote to Treasury solicitors. In his letter, he stated that he had come across a written transcript of a telephone conversation between himself and his client, Mr Harry Roberts, in late 2005 while Mr Roberts was detained in HMP Channings Wood. The transcript was amongst material supplied to him by the specially appointed advocate (SAA) who had been involved in Mr Roberts' previous parole hearing. Mr Creighton also stated that there appeared to be at least one other telephone call between himself and Mr Roberts which had been recorded.

On 30 January 2008, the Treasury solicitor forwarded Mr Creighton's letter to officials at the Ministry of Justice. On receipt of the letter, officials began enquiries of HMP Channings Wood as to how the telephone conversations had come to be recorded and transcribed.

I and other Ministers at the Ministry of Justice were told of the existence of the transcripts on 4 February.

In response to the allegations being made, the then Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service commissioned an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the interception, monitoring and retention of communications between Mr Roberts and his solicitor. I also asked for an internal investigation to be undertaken by the National Offender Management Service to determine the precise circumstances in which the transcripts of legally privileged conversations had come to be made and passed to the SAA. I am now in a position to inform the House of the findings of the investigations into this issue.

This statement relates to how transcripts of conversations between Mr Creighton and Mr Roberts came to be included in material prepared for Mr Roberts' previous parole hearing. In summary, the Prison Service investigation concluded that this occurred because Mr Roberts failed to identify his solicitor's telephone number to staff at Channings Wood prison, though Mr Roberts, through his solicitor, disputes this finding.

The prison rules allow for the interception of communications in prison and for intercepted information to be retained for up to three months and to be disclosed to the police and others when it is necessary and proportionate to do so, either on receipt of a lawful application to access the information or by way of lawful voluntary disclosure. Interception is the action that makes the contents of a telephone or mail communication available to a person other than the sender and intended recipient. An operational manager can authorise the interception of communications for reasons such as prison security and control, but there is also a policy that prisons will monitor all the communications of certain prisoners—for example category A prisoners—who pose the greatest risk to the public and/or security within prisons. Telephone monitoring is the action of listening to recordings of the content of intercepted telephone communications. Prison staff keep a record of which calls have been monitored. The interception described here is undertaken by the prison authorities under prison rules. It does not require authorisation by a Secretary of State under part I of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA). Nor should it be confused with the directed surveillance class of authorisations under part II of RIPA, necessary for the conduct of covert eavesdropping in prison visiting rooms, which were the subject of the recent inquiry by the chief surveillance commissioner, Sir Christopher Rose, about which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department made a statement on 21 February 2008 (*Official Report*, col. 536). There is no suggestion that any legal visits to Mr Roberts were monitored.

The PIN phone system—so called because prisoners are given a personal identification number (PIN)—intercepts and records all telephone calls that prisoners make, except those identified by the prisoner as legally privileged or otherwise confidential communications (for example with the Samaritans). All intercepted telephone communications are recorded by the PIN system and initially stored on the hard drive of the system before being copied onto either a tape or CD for retention purposes. Only those prisoners who pose the greatest risk have all their communications monitored but all establishments will undertake an element of random monitoring of telephone communications of

no more than 5 per cent. of calls made on a particular day. Prisoners are made aware during the induction process and by notices prominently displayed within the prison that their calls are intercepted, recorded and may be monitored.

The PIN phone system is configured in such a way that it does not intercept communications between a prisoner and their legal representative or other confidential communications provided that these numbers are declared as being confidential. This is what is termed the confidential side of the PIN system—it is not subject to interception. However, in very limited circumstances, for example where a prison governor or law enforcement agency has reasonable cause to believe that a telephone call between a prisoner and his legal adviser is of a criminal nature or would endanger prison security or the safety of others, the governor may authorise the interception, recording and monitoring of such conversations by moving the legal representative's number from the confidential side of the PIN phone system to the open side, without the prisoner's knowledge. Such communications will then be intercepted, and a member of staff will listen to them, for such period as is deemed necessary. There was no authorisation to intercept, record and monitor the legal telephone conversations between Mr Harry Roberts and his solicitor, Mr Creighton. For the future I have decided it is more appropriate, given the sensitivity and seriousness of interfering with legal professional privilege, to raise the grade for such interception of communications to the Chief Operating Officer for the National Offender Management Service. We will amend the prison rules accordingly.

The general position is that legal representatives' numbers are included on the confidential side of the PIN system to ensure that calls are not intercepted and recorded, although a log is kept of the date and time of the call. However, it is the responsibility of prisoners to notify the prison authorities of the telephone numbers of their legal representatives, so that such calls are not inadvertently intercepted.

In the case of Mr Roberts, in the view of the Prison Service, the recording of his telephone conversations with his solicitor occurred because Mr Roberts failed to identify to staff at HMP Channings Wood the telephone number of Mr Creighton of Bhatt Murphy. This was established during the investigation commissioned by the then Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service. When the PIN phone system was introduced at HMP Channings Wood in 2002, all prisoners were told that they needed to identify the telephone numbers of their legal representatives by completing a form, so that those numbers could be entered on to the confidential part of the PIN system with calls to those numbers not intercepted. Mr Roberts states that he did identify the relevant number, but there is no evidence that he did so. There is no documentary evidence that he underwent the training to familiarise prisoners with the PIN system on its introduction. However, the Prison Service has confirmed that Mr Roberts would not have received a PIN number or have been able to transfer funds to his PIN phone account had he not undergone the training. In June 2006, a notice was issued to prisoners at Channings Wood reminding them of their obligations under Prison Service Order 4400 to list their legal telephone numbers, to which Mr Roberts did not respond. Consequently, whilst he was imprisoned at HMP Channings Wood, all of his calls to his solicitor were intercepted, recorded and could have been monitored. There is, however, no evidence that Prison Service staff at Channings Wood carried out any monitoring of these communications.

On 8 November 2005, for the purposes of a closed hearing of the Parole Board, my right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke), the then Secretary of State for the Home Department, was directed by the board to obtain recordings of telephone calls for the period 1 October to 8 November 2005 made by Mr Roberts whilst he was at HMP Channings Wood, to enable further detailed consideration of his level of risk to specific individuals. This request was for recordings in general. It did not refer to calls with his solicitor, nor was it intended to cover such calls. Mr Roberts was represented at the closed hearing by a specially appointed advocate (SAA).

The lifer section in the National Offender Management Service obtained the recordings without themselves listening to, transcribing or reviewing them in any way and sent them to the Treasury solicitor, who was acting for the Secretary of State. Secretarial staff at the Treasury solicitor then made transcripts of the recordings. Due to the pressure of time in preparing for the parole hearing and the concern of the SAA to have the material as soon as possible, Treasury counsel and the Treasury solicitor agreed with the SAA that the transcripts and tapes of the recordings should be provided to the SAA as they became available and before they were reviewed.

In January 2006, when counsel for the Secretary of State discovered one transcript of a telephone conversation between Mr Roberts and Mr Creighton, she alerted the Treasury solicitor and the lifer section to the existence of the transcript, and advised that the transcript should not be reviewed. On further examination of the transcripts, two other transcripts of telephone conversations between Mr Roberts and Mr Creighton were discovered. All three transcripts were then deleted from the transcripts that the Secretary of State provided to the Parole Board. However, as a result of an oversight some copies of the transcripts were kept. The prison governor at Channings Wood was not made aware of the existence of this material.

At that time, the SAA was representing Mr Roberts in all matters relating to the closed proceedings and consequently there were no communications between the Treasury solicitor and Mr Creighton about matters relating to the closed hearing. As a result, a decision was taken by the Treasury solicitor not to tell Mr Creighton of the existence of the transcripts and tapes. However, the SAA was made aware of the existence of the transcripts and the SAA had the transcripts and tapes and would have been able to raise any concerns on Mr Roberts' behalf, although he did not in fact do so.

On 8 January 2008, the Parole Board directed that the SAA send the papers to Mr Creighton for the purposes of a new parole hearing for Mr Roberts. As far as counsel and Treasury solicitor for the Secretary of State were concerned, the transcripts had been deleted from the Parole Board dossier and so were not part of the evidence for the closed hearing of the Parole Board and there was no reliance on the transcripts of legally privileged conversations for the purposes of the parole hearing. However, the SAA had

both the tapes of the recordings and the undeleted transcripts and these were included in the papers sent to Mr Creighton.

The Treasury solicitor and Mr Creighton have exchanged correspondence about this matter. Mr Creighton wrote to the Treasury solicitor on 29 January. The Treasury solicitor replied on 28 February. Mr Creighton wrote a further letter on 4 March, and the Treasury solicitor replied on 25 March. Mr Creighton wrote a further letter on 1 April, and the Treasury solicitor replied on 14 May. Mr Creighton, on his client's behalf, disputes part of the account above. I am, therefore, with his agreement, placing the full correspondence in the Libraries of both Houses.

I would like to add for completeness that I learned on 25 February that Derbyshire constabulary also had in its possession a number of transcripts of legally privileged conversations between Mr Roberts and his legal advisers and that the chief constable had instigated an internal investigation. That investigation has now concluded. The recordings of telephone conversations obtained by Derbyshire constabulary were as a result of four applications under the prison rules to HMP Channings Wood for recordings of Mr Roberts' conversations, which altogether covered the period 19 August 2005 to 8 October 2006. The investigation revealed that Derbyshire constabulary's remit in this matter extended only to consideration of a possible risk that had arisen to sources of certain information which had been provided to the Parole Board and taking such action as was necessary and proportionate to mitigate that risk. The constabulary was not involved in any decision regarding Mr Roberts' continued imprisonment. Derbyshire police were properly authorised to access Mr Roberts' communications under the formal process agreed between HMPS and ACPO. Derbyshire police's requirements were managed by the police intelligence officer at Channings Wood.

The investigation also found that it was only officers at detective constable level in Derbyshire constabulary that knew of the existence of the legally privileged material. Those officers then failed to inform or seek advice from their senior officers or the force solicitor. The officers involved have since received advice on legal professional privilege, and systems within the constabulary have been tightened more generally.

The chief constable of Derbyshire has provided assurance that the transcripts held by his constabulary were never used as evidence or intelligence, nor were they disseminated to any senior officer or partner agency. Derbyshire constabulary reacted promptly, comprehensively and openly once this issue was brought to its attention. Derbyshire constabulary has given an undertaking not to destroy any material relating to Mr Roberts, but in particular the transcripts of his telephone conversations, including legal conversations without the prior agreement of Mr Creighton and NOMS.

The report of the interception of communications commissioner for 2006 (HC 252) was laid before Parliament by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 28 January 2008. NOMS continues to work closely with the interception of communications commissioner, who has non-statutory oversight of the interception of communications in prisons. NOMS will undertake a wide-ranging review of interception policy and procedures and an operational pilot of revised procedures. This review will consider the training needs of staff engaged in interceptions and whether further awareness is needed about the handling of legal professional privilege and other confidential material. I will make a further statement, should this be necessary.

WALES

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): The Wales Office departmental report was published today, Thursday 15 May 2008.

Written Ministerial Statement

Friday 16 May 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Financial Assistance for Industry (Increase of Limit) Order: Industrial Development Act 1982

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): A motion to increase the limit of financial assistance under this Act was resolved in Committee on 17 July 2007. Due to an administrative error the order was not made until 7 May 2008. It came into force on 8 May. I regret the delay in the completion of this order.

Petitions

Thursday 1 May 2008

OBSERVATIONS

DEFENCE

Support for Armed Forces

The Petition of residents of Chorley and others,

Declares that British Service personnel should receive the necessary help and support they require, particularly medical support.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Defence to honour the covenant between Government and service and ex-service personnel in providing the necessary support and medical assistance they require.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Lindsay Hoyle, Official Report,* 27 February 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1207 .] [P000132]

Observations from the Under-Secretary of State for Defence:

The Government provides a wide range of support to our Armed Forces and veterans and their families. We have made a number of improvements recently including enhancements to operational equipment, accommodation, compensation and medical support. The Command Paper, due in the spring, will outline steps taken so far and future initiatives to enhance the Government's support.

The provision of medical care to Service personnel has recently been highly praised by the cross-party House of Commons Defence Committee which declared in their February 2008 Report on "Medical care for the Armed Forces" that:

> "The clinical care for Servicemen and women seriously injured on operations is second to none. DMS personnel, working with the NHS, provide world-class care and we pay tribute to them."

The HCDC report provided welcome confirmation that we have made the right decisions about the way that we provide this care and the way we maintain and develop the skills of our doctors, nurses and other medical professionals by working closely with the NHS.

Ministry of Defence Hospital Units

In addition to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) in Birmingham, we have arrangements with five major NHS Trust hospitals to provide experience and training for our military medical personnel. These NHS hospitals have all agreed to host Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs) to facilitate the continuing training, development and maintenance of clinical skills of DMS personnel in their hospitals. The NHS hospitals that host the MDHUs are also close to military population centres, and so can offer more "local" secondary care facilities for military patients living or working in the region.

Looking to the future, RCDM patient care will be moving to the new NHS hospital being built in Birmingham, and so will benefit from the major investment which will deliver the largest and most modern critical care teaching hospital in Europe.

Service patients can already be treated in any NHS hospital (although this will most frequently occur within those Trusts which host MDHUs), which is the most effective way of enabling them to benefit from the latest advances in medical treatment and the recent major investments in NHS facilities. The HCDC report recently stated:

> "We were impressed by the MDHUs which we visited and are satisfied that they deliver high-quality care to military and civilian patients."

Operational Health Care

On deployed operations the DMS aim to provide medical support on operations encompassing preventive medicine, evacuation, primary, secondary and tertiary care. When Service personnel are seriously injured, we aim to ensure that they receive a very high standard of care, including returning them to the UK for specialist treatment if necessary.

RCDM, based at the University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT), is the main receiving unit for military casualties evacuated from an operational theatre. In the Birmingham area, military patients can benefit from the concentration of five specialist hospitals (including Selly Oak Hospital) to receive an excellent level of clinical treatment. Selly Oak is at the leading edge in the medical care of the most common types of injuries our casualties sustain.

Mental Health

In Iraq and Afghanistan, we deploy highly skilled and experienced uniformed mental health nurses to provide in-theatre care and treatment for our personnel. Away from operations, our mental health services are configured to provide community-based mental health care in line with national best practice. We do this primarily through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) across the UK (plus satellite centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental healthcare.

The DCMHs are staffed by Community Mental Health Teams comprising psychiatrists and mental health nurses, with access to clinical psychologists and mental health social workers. In-patient care, when necessary, is provided regionally in specialised psychiatric units under a contract with the Priory Group. The HCDC recently supported the MOD's community based approach to mental healthcare, stating:

> "We believe that it is sensible to approach mental healthcare from community based provision, delivered in conjunction with local military units, in-patient treatment being a last resort."

Rehabilitation

There are 15 MOD Regional Rehabilitation Units (RRU) in the UK and Germany. They focus on the assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal injuries and sports medicine and are staffed by specially trained doctors, physiotherapists and rehabilitation instructors. They enable patients to be assessed and treated in a timely fashion, with the aim of returning them to operational fitness when this is clinically possible. In their recent report the HCDC concluded that:

> "The MOD's approach to musculo-skeletal injuries is forward-looking and sensible, and we are persuaded that it has been of significant benefit to Service personnel as patients..."

More seriously injured patients may be referred to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court in Surrey, which is the principal medical rehabilitation centre run by the Armed Forces and widely praised for its work. Indeed, the HCDC report described its services as "exceptional". DMRC provides both physiotherapy and group rehabilitation for complex musculoskeletal injuries, plus neuro-rehabilitation for brain-injured patients, after they have completed their hospital care.

Veterans

The healthcare of veterans is the responsibility of the Department of Health and the devolved Administrations. In November 2007 the Health Secretary announced an extension of NHS priority treatment to enable access to priority treatment in the NHS to veterans who may not yet have claimed a war pension.

From 1 January all veterans, not just war pensioners, should receive priority access to NHS secondary care for conditions which are assessed by their GPs as being as being due to service, subject to the clinical needs of all patients. The Department of Health has issued guidance on the new provision. Defence and Health officials and the ex-Service organisations are now working together on communicating the new arrangement to GPs and the veterans' community and monitoring its effectiveness.

Ex-Service personnel receive good treatment from their GPs but we recognise that many health professionals have limited experience of dealing with veterans who have mental health symptoms arising from their Service experience.

Officials from the MOD and the UK Health Departments have therefore been working together to develop a new community-based mental health service. The first of six regional health pilots was launched on 23 November, a further three pilots have launched with the remaining two pilots due to launch shortly. It is intended that the mental health pilots will run for two years ahead of evaluation and nationwide roll out. The service is designed to provide regional networks of culturally sensitive expertise in military mental health to support NHS health professionals.

To cover the interim period we announced in the summer the expansion of our Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) based at St Thomas' Hospital, London, to include assessment of veterans with mental health problems with operational service since 1982.

Additionally the MOD is the single biggest contributor to Combat Stress (a charity which specialises in helping ex-Service personnel suffering from nervous or mental disabilities); in 2006-07 MOD gave Combat Stress £2.5 million in fees. In October 2007 the Department agreed to phased increase in the fees we pay rising to 45 per cent from 1 January 2008 to enable them to enhance their capability to treat veterans. This demonstrates the Department's continuing commitment to help Combat Stress play an appropriate part in treating veterans with mental health problems and help Combat Stress deliver an enhanced capability to treat war pensioners.

The MOD holds regular discussions with the Department of Health on how the health care provisions for Service personnel, their dependents and veterans can be improved.

Welfare

The Ministry of Defence places a very high priority on the welfare of its Service personnel and their families. The procedures are under constant review to make sure that the provision reflects the needs of the individuals.

The Ministry of Defence fully recognises the importance of adequate welfare provision for our in-patient Servicemen and women at RCDM and a package of measures is in place to support them. This includes an incidental expenses allowance of £5 per day (£10 per day in overseas hospitals) to pay for TV/internet cards and sundries such as newspapers. In addition to this patients who remain in hospital for longer than 10 days are eligible for the payment of Longer Separation Allowance at a rate of between £6.22 and £26.26 per day.

Operational casualties will continue to receive the tax-free Operational Allowance of £12.75 per day and are also eligible to retain any paid acting rank that was awarded for participation in the operation that resulted in their injury. They are also entitled to the accelerated award of any campaign medal that may be awarded and their unit can continue to claim welfare monies for families support whilst the individual is hospitalised.

The family of an injured Service person, who is listed as 'Very Seriously Ill', 'Seriously Ill' or 'Incapacitating Illness or Injury' and has the required medical recommendations, is entitled to travel, accommodation and subsistence at public expense. The Dangerously Ill Forwarding of Relatives (DILFOR) rules allow funding to cover the travel, accommodation and subsistence for two close family members to travel to the bedside of an injured Service person. In addition, the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell (JCCC) can extend this to allow other family members also to travel to be at the bedside.

Initially, the DILFOR allowance is for 7 days but can be extended for as long as required subject to medical advice. The regulations on DILFOR equally apply to the families of Foreign & Commonwealth Service personnel.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members' Priority Access

The Petition of Members and staff of the House of Commons and others,

Declares that the Petitioners are astonished at the announcement made on the 9th October 2007 that hon. Members should have priority access to services throughout the Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate. The Petitioners agree that such an approach may be expedient during a division, but not everywhere all the time. The Petitioners consider that this announcement serves to create a rigid two-tier system which is counter to an enlightened image of Parliament and further believe that there is merit in a general presumption of equality on the Parliamentary Estate

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons ask the Administration Committee and Sergeant at Arms to reconsider their decision.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Lembit Öpik, Official Report,* 22 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 1470 .] [P000112]

Observations from the House of Commons Commission:

An announcement was made on 9 October 2007 that Members should have priority access to services throughout the Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate. This was as a result of a recommendation by the Administration Committee after discussions about the inadequate enforcement of regulations on access to facilities. The intention of the Committee's recommendation was that Members should have the opportunity to take priority at service points if they asked rather than that they should be given automatic priority at all times. Mr. Speaker agreed to the recommendation.

The Chairman of the Administration Committee attended a meeting on 16 October convened by representatives of Members' staff to discuss the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. There was a high turnout, including staff working for Members of all parties, as well as House staff, and representatives of trade unions. It was a valuable meeting at which views were expressed both about the substance of the recommendations and the way in which they had been communicated.

The Committee accepts that strong feelings have been provoked on the part of staff and unions but it is not intending to change the recommendation at present, and the Commission does not plan to amend the policy. The Administration Committee has agreed that it will review the operation of the Members' Priority Access policy in twelve months' time.

Petitions

Tuesday 6 May 2008

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Development (Essex)

The Petition of Mrs Vanda Jimmick, residents of Hadleigh and others

Declares that Hadleigh, particularly the town shopping centre, should be protected from further overdevelopment, and that they feel the proposed development, at the corner of Oak Road North and London Road, replacing four commercial units with 30 flats and three large commercial units, with totally inadequate parking and access facilities, is environmentally damaging and local public services and road capacity are even now under great strain and unable to absorb more development, and that they feel that Hadleigh is becoming flat-land, and there is too much of this sort of housing provision, which is not suitable for families.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to implore the local borough council to reject the development of the corner of Oak Road North and London Road so the community can remain sustainable.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 10 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 118.] [P000143]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The question of whether or not to allow planning permission for the proposed redevelopment of land at the corner of Oak Road North and London Road is a matter for the local planning authority, in this instance Castle Point Borough Council.

Primary responsibility for development control within an area rests with the local planning authority. It is for them to decide in the first instance, with particular regard to the provisions of statutory development plans and any other material considerations, whether a particular development should take place. The Secretary of State rarely intervenes in the consideration of individual planning applications and then only when planning issues of national or regional significance are involved. To do so more often would be to undermine the responsibility of local authorities for planning in their area.

Local Infrastructure (Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of the residents of the Hatton Park area in Wellingborough and surrounding areas,

Sheweth

That for three years they have pursued, through the appropriate channels at the Borough Council of Wellingborough and Northamptonshire County Council, improvements to the local infrastructure including the speed and volume of traffic, the poor state of roads and pavements, the large and intrusive trees and illegal and dangerous parking; and further declares that these improvements have not been carried out, and are concerned that they pay the highest council tax in the Borough of Wellingborough.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to liaise with the two local authorities concerned in order to investigate the concerns above and resolve the situation

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 20 February 2008; Vol. 472, c. 486 .] [P000126]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

Improvements to the road infrastructure in the Wellingborough area are primarily the responsibility of the local highway authority, in this case Northamptonshire County Council, and thus the Secretary of State would not normally comment on the condition of local roads.

Government Office for the East Midlands understand that although Northamptonshire County Council have undertaken some road improvements in the Croyland Ward area these were done some time ago, and the County Council are unaware of the recent concerns of the residents in that area. They do have a large number of conflicting priorities across the county, but will try to ensure that appropriate action is taken to best serve the concerns of the local residents. Northamptonshire County Council have advised that, to best do this, sight of the petition with details of the concerns would be most helpful.

Planning (Bedfordshire)

The Petition of the campaign for a sustainable Harlington,

Declares their opposition to proposals to destroy the green belt around Harlington by building a stadium and a large industrial/commercial development on land adjacent to Junction 12 of the M1. Luton Town Football Club and the Council should find a suitable urban site for a new stadium within the boundaries of Luton.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to preserve the green belt around Harlington.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Nadine Dorries, Official Report,* 20 February 2008; Vol. 472, c. 486 .] [P000120]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application has been submitted to South Bedfordshire District Council in respect of the above development. She is advised that the application was registered on 27th February.

The determination of planning applications is primarily the responsibility of the District Council as local planning authority, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application, or prospective application.

Decisions on planning applications are required to be in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's statements of national planning policy,

such as Planning Policy Guidance 2 "Green Belts", are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions, but it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the; views of local residents and other interested parties.

The Secretary of State may decide to call-in an application for her own determination where she considers that it raises issues of more than local importance, but her policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that the instant proposal may, at some future date come within her jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to comment on the matter raised in the petition.

The Petition of the campaign for a sustainable Toddington,

Declares their opposition to proposals to destroy the green belt around Toddington by building a stadium and a large industrial/commercial development on land adjacent to Junction 12 of the M1. Luton Town Football Club and the Council should find a suitable urban site for a new stadium within the boundaries of Luton.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to preserve the green belt around Toddington.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Nadine Dorries, Official Report,* 20 February 2008; Vol. 472, c. 486 .] [P000123]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application has been submitted to South Bedfordshire District Council in respect of the above development. She is advised that the application was registered on 27th February.

The determination of planning applications is primarily the responsibility of the District Council as local planning authority, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application, or prospective application.

Decisions on planning applications are required to be in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's statements of national planning policy, such as Planning Policy Guidance 2 "Green Belts", are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions, but it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

The Secretary of State may decide to call-in an application for her own determination where she considers that it raises issues of more than local importance, but her policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that the instant proposal may, at some future date come within her jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to comment on the matter raised in the petition.

Planning and Development (Reading)

The Petition of people from the greater Reading area,

Declares that the panel looking at the South East Plan were wrong to recommend development of 7500 houses north of the M4 at Reading; this area is in a functional floodplain; the Environment Agency have said that building in this area could result in floods in central Reading; the petitioners wish to see Kennet floodplain protected in line with existing planning policies.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Minister for Planning to delete Kennet Meadow as a development area from the Regional Plan.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.,—*[Presented by Martin Salter, Official Report,* 2 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 890 .] [P000169]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the recommendations of the panel report into the south east plan in relation to a special development area south of Reading, referred to locally as Kennet Meadow.

As the process of producing the south east plan is bound by regulation and propriety guidance, which seeks to put all interested parties on an even footing, I am unable to discuss the merits of the panel's report, or take any representations or comments on board at this stage. These propriety matters apply in particular to any comments related to particular localities or development proposals.

The position in respect of the south east plan is that Government are currently considering its response to the recommendations in the panel report. The next stage in the process is the publication, for public consultation, of the Government's own proposed changes to the draft strategy. This will provide an opportunity for interested parties to make further representations. We are aiming to publish the proposed changes in the summer.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change

The Humble Petition of residents of Bristol,

Sheweth

That they bear witness to the threats of climate change, and believe that firm action is needed to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House appeals to Her Majesty's Government to bring forward an amendment to the Climate Change (Sectoral Targets) Bill, to introduce a target for the reduction of Carbon Dioxide emissions by at least 80% of the 1990 levels by 2050, to include in this target emissions from aviation and shipping, and to require intermediate annual targets for the reduction of emissions.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Stephen Williams, Official Report,* 19 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 1049 .] [P000154]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

Thank you for your petition in which you ask the House of Commons to consider a number of points in relation to the Climate Change Bill. I have been asked to reply as DEFRA has policy responsibility for Climate Change.

With regards to the 2050 target, the government recognises the significant recent advances in scientific understanding since the 60% goal was included in the 2003 Energy White Paper, and set out as at least 60% CO_2 reduction in the Bill. However, the Prime Minister stated, last November, that the independent Committee on Climate Change will be asked to review the 2050 target, and advise on whether it should be tightened up to 80%. There has been no comparable cross-cutting research and analysis since the Royal Commission report which recommended the 60% figure in 2000. The Government tabled an amendment to strengthen the Bill, that will make the 2050 target review a statutory duty. The Committee on Climate Change will report its findings by 1 December.

Domestic shipping, which accounts for over 40% of UK maritime bunker sales, is included already in the Climate Change Bill, as is domestic aviation. The Bill also allows for the inclusion of international shipping and aviation once there is a change in European or international law or practice. There is currently no international agreement on how to allocate emissions from international shipping or international aviation to individual countries: it is for this reason that emissions from international aviation and shipping are currently excluded from the national targets of all countries who currently have emissions reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

We are continuing to investigate all options for reducing emissions from international and domestic shipping, including improved technology and better operator practices. However, shipping is a global industry and so it is important that regulations are developed in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on a global scale, as they must be enforced by flag States i.e. the countries under whose flags ships operate. Therefore, in the international arena we are working actively within the IMO to address greenhouse gas emissions and other atmospheric emissions from ships.

We are also taking action to tackle the climate change impacts of aviation. The UK has led the debate on the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). You may be aware that significant progress towards this objective was achieved in December last year when EU Ministers reached agreement at Environment Council to include the carbon emissions from flights arriving at and departing from the EU in 2012.

On the issue of annual targets in the Bill, there is already strong annual accountability through the requirement of annual reporting to Parliament on progress towards budgets and targets by the independent Committee on Climate Change—to which the Government must respond. The Government has rejected annual targets in favour of five-year carbon budgets for very good reasons: annual targets are simply too inflexible to take account of real life. Five-year periods offer the right balance between certainty and flexibility and are also consistent with international practice (e.g. under the Kyoto Protocol). For example, it would be impractical to manage annual targets for those businesses covered by EU ETS, which represent around half of the UK's CO2 emissions, as that system operates on five-year periods where trading freely within the period and across the EU is allowed to ensure operators meet their obligations. Nevertheless, in order to provide greater transparency over the Government's expectations, as part of the Government package of amendments tabled at Lords Report stage, a new requirement has been added to the Bill that following the setting of each carbon budget, the Secretary of State will also be obliged to set out in a report to Parliament annual indicative ranges for the net UK carbon account for each year within the budget period.

Petitions

Wednesday 14 May 2008

OBSERVATIONS

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Darfur Genocide

The Petition of Students from seven West Oxfordshire secondary schools; Bartholomew, Burford, Carterton, Chipping Norton, The Henry Box School, The Marlborough Schools and Wood Green,

Declares that genocide is taking place in Darfur, Sudan.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to move the issue of the Darfur genocide to the top of the political agenda and media spotlight, and to keep it there.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.— [*Official Report, 12 March 2008, vol. 473, col. 5P*]. [P000149]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

I utterly condemn the appalling acts of violence committed by all sides to the conflict in Darfur. The UK is at the forefront of international efforts to bring lasting peace and security to Darfur.

The UK has called on all parties to stop the violence, to allow immediate humanitarian access, to protect civilians, and to facilitate the deployment of the African Union-UN peacekeeping force (UNAMID). We continue to work closely with the UN and others to improve the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

The UK welcomed the transfer of authority, on 31 December, from the African Union force that deployed to Darfur in 2006 to the African Union/UN Hybrid force (UNAMID). The UK was instrumental in ensuring the unanimous adoption of UNSCR 1769, which mandated UNAMID in July 2007. UNAMID is operating under UN financing, logistic support and established peacekeeping procedures. UNAMID has increased daylight patrols to support women collecting firewood, and started night patrols.

The UK strongly supports the international community's efforts to monitor and improve the application of human rights in Sudan. There can be no impunity for the crimes committed in Darfur. The UK played a leading role in the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1593 in March 2005, which referred Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC issued arrest warrants on 2 May 2007 on two individuals for alleged war crimes in Darfur.

The ICC Prosecutor reported to the UN Security Council on 5 December 2007 that Sudan had not met its obligations. As a UN member, Sudan must comply with all UNSCRs. I raised this with the Sudanese Foreign Minister during his visit to London on 28 April 2008. The Sudanese authorities must co-operate unconditionally with the ICC and surrender the two individuals. The ICC has our full support for its activities.

Ultimately, peace can only be achieved through a committed political process. There is an urgent need to re-invigorate the AU-UN-led Darfur political process, and for the AU and UN to appoint,a single Chief Negotiator. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, during his visit to New York on 17 April, pressed UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to appoint a single Chief Negotiator as quickly as possible, and offered to host talks in London as part of the AU-UN led process if that was considered useful by the international community and the parties to the conflict.

The UK remains committed to finding a lasting, peaceful and inclusive solution to the situation in Darfur. We will continue to play a leading role in international efforts to support work towards a peaceful future for Darfur.

HEALTH

Hugh Sexey's Hospital

The Humble Petition of the Rt. Rev. Neville Chamberlain (Master of Hugh Sexey's Hospital) and others of like disposition,

Sheweth,

That Her Majesty's Government's plans for the re-organisation of primary care in the country, with particular reference to rural areas such as theirs, will dramatically effect the way in which General Practice is currently organised and funded, and will severely harm the services they currently receive from their excellent local surgery.

As residents of Hugh Sexey's Hospital, a remarkable retirement home, where the average age of the residents is 80+, and where every effort is made to remain self-sufficient and independent (constantly advocated as a desirable object), the loss of their local surgery would be catastrophic.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House shall call on Her Majesty's Government to reconsider its plans, and treat each differing area, urban and rural, to detailed consideration, with particular reference to the needs of vulnerable groups in each community, and not allow public money to be taken away from local NHS surgeries and given to private companies.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. David Heath, Official Report, 26 March 2008; Vol. 474, c. 5P.]* [P000160]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

My Department will bring this issue to the attention of Somerset Primary Care Trust (PCT) to ensure that such decisions are made in consultation with local stakeholders, including local patients and clinicians. PCTs are responsible for organising local health services in ways that reflect the needs of their local population.

The Government is not trying to impose a 'polyclinic' model that would see smaller GP practices move into the health centres alongside a range of ancillary services. PCTs may wish to develop this model if it is appropriate for their area. However, what the Government is proposing nationally is the procurement of new and additional GP services, to add to and complement existing provision.

Somerset PCT, like every PCT in the country, will receive additional resources from the £250 million access fund to procure a new GP-led health centre service this year following the commitments made in Lord Darzi's interim report.

The Department of Health is currently working with PCTs and strategic health authorities to develop a communications and stakeholder engagement plan that articulates in more consistent and compelling ways the rationale for the primary care procurements, emphasises the degree of local flexibility and addresses some of the common misperceptions about centrally imposed requirements.

Nurses' Pay

The Petition of residents of the Taunton constituency and others,

Declares that the Government's refusal to backdate the pay settlement awarded to NHS nurses by the independent Pay Review Body in 2007 constitutes a broken promise to a profession that has been unfairly neglected in recent years; that the recent offer of 8% over 3 years is insufficient and vulnerable to current inflationary turmoil; and that the nurses of Taunton Deane are highly skilled and dedicated public servants who have earned a fair and rewarding pay settlement.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to increase the rate of pay for NHS nurses beyond the current settlement.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Jeremy Browne, Official Report, 28 April 2008; Vol. 475, c. 138.]* [P000178]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The Government fully recognises the important role that nurses play in patient care and ensuring they are properly remunerated for the specialist work they do.

In 2007-08 the Government made a decision - given the policy on public sector pay -to stage the Pay Review Body recommendations. However, in further discussions the NHS Staff Council reached an agreement to the following additional changes to the 2007-08 pay arrangements:

£400 for staff on pay points 1-7 with 1.5 per cent, payable from 1 April 2007 and the remainder from 1 November 2007;

2.5 per cent, and £38 for staff on pay points 8-18 with 1.5 per cent, from 1 April 2007 and the remainder from 1 November 2007;

2.5 per cent, with 1.5 per cent, payable from 1 April 2007 and with the balance from 1 November 2007 for all other staff;

funding to the equivalent of £25 per member of staff who is not required to have clinical professional registration to practice is made available by the Department of Health in 2007-08 to trusts to support training projects for that group of staff. Projects to be agreed locally in partnership with applications for funding signed off by the trust chief executive and staff side chair;

a payment of £38 a year to Agenda for Change clinical staff in bands 5-8(A) inclusive who are in professions where registration is a mandatory requirement of practice to support the payment of fees for their clinical registration from 2007 to 2010 inclusive, by when it will have been jointly reviewed; and

an agreement, without prejudice, to discuss the possibilities for a multi-year pay deal pay arrangement.

The agreed multi-year discussions have continued and the offer of just under eight per cent, across the next three years is now out to union consultation.

The deal would give staff a headline pay rise of 2.75 per cent, in the first year - the best in the public sector. For the first time, the minimum starting salary for nurses would be more than £20,000.

Structural reforms over the three years would deliver benefits not possible from a Pay Review Body award. This means that newly qualified clinicians - including nurses, midwives and physios - would receive a 20 per cent, pay increase over the course of the deal. Some staff in Band 5 would receive a 21 per cent, increase.

Experienced clinicians and other staff in non-clinical groups in Band 6 - including registered midwives and specialist therapists - would receive between a 19 per cent, and 21 per cent. increase over the three years.

The majority of staff in Bands 1 through to 4, including clinical support staff, would see an 18 or 19 per cent. increase over the course of the deal.

The Year 2 headline pay rise of 2.4 per cent. would establish a new minimum wage of £6.77 an hour - 18 per cent. higher than the statutory rate. Those on the lowest point would receive an overall pay increase of 5.7 per cent.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) have also welcomed the three-year pay agreement for nurses. Dr Peter Carter, Chief Executive & General Secretary of the RCN said:

"We have always said we would only consider signing up to a three year pay deal if it was fair and offered nurses protection against future rises in inflation. We are delighted to put the RCN's name to a proposal that does just that.

Nurses can now focus on doing what matters most, delivering high quality patient care, safe in the knowledge they have some degree of security over their household finances in the coming years. An important part of the package we have negotiated is to ensure nurses are protected against future price rises so we are delighted to have won a commitment to re-open pay talks should inflation rise sharply or if there are significant changes to the labour market. This process will be overseen by the independent pay review body.

"We have long argued that fair pay and decent conditions are vital to keep experienced nurses in the profession, while attracting much needed new blood. Given the uncertain economic climate and the government's tough public sector pay policy, this package, worth 7.99 per cent over three years, is better than expected and goes some way towards bridging the gap between nurses' pay and other public sector workers. We will now be consulting our members for their views on this proposed agreement. Details of the RCN's consultation will be announced shortly."

The Government believes we have worked successfully with the Unions towards a deal that is good for staff, the NHS and patients. This deal ensures security for NHS staff and allows them to plan for their future and the future of their families. It will help those on the lowest wages, increase the earning potential for hundreds of thousands of staff and allow quicker progression up the pay ladder.

The Government does not agree that NHS nurses have been "unfairly neglected in recent years" - Agenda for Change itself provided an additional just short of £1 billion investment in the first full year of implementation, as addressed previously in the House.

The new multi-year deal will mean in 2008-09 the majority of nurses will receive both a headline award of 2.75 per cent, if agreed by the unions, and a further pay incremental uplift of on average 3 per cent., providing a 5.75 per cent, uplift for many nursing staff.

TRANSPORT

Local Bus Services (Dorset)

The Petition of customers and residents of West Moors in the Christchurch constituency,

Declares that they deplore the decision of Wilts. and Dorset Bus Company to reschedule local bus services in such a way as to remove the direct services between West Moors and Bournemouth and Bournemouth Hospital and express their concerns that one of the justifications for the rescheduling is the requirement of the Bus Company to reduce the length of its routes to less than 31 miles so that it can use vehicles without tachographs which would otherwise be required under the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations 2007.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reduce regulatory burdens and review the impact of the latest regulations upon local bus services.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Christopher Chope, Official Report, 28 April 2008; Vol. 475, c. 139.]* [P000180]

Observations from the Secretary of Transport:

The Government is aware that a number of bus operators have recently altered routes to remove themselves from the scope of the European drivers' hours and tachograph rules under Council Regulation EC 561/2006. This Regulation contains an EU wide derogation for vehicles used for the carriage of passengers on regular services where the route covered by the service in question does not exceed 50km.

The Regulation came into force on 11 April 2007 and replaced earlier EU legislation on this subject. The 50km threshold for regular bus services has existed since EU drivers' hours rules were first introduced. However, the Regulation introduced a new requirement for drivers of regular bus services to use a tachograph to record hours worked and tightened up weekly rest requirements. These changes were intended to reduce the risk of fatigue related road accidents involving drivers of commercial vehicles and were the outcome of extensive negotiations in Europe. At that time, the Government consulted a wide range of stakeholders on the proposals and these changes were not identified as a pressing concern.

Since the Regulations came into force, the Government has received representations from bus operators that operating services under the EU rules is unattractive commercially because of the additional costs involved. Representations have also been received from bus users that services are being curtailed or withdrawn. There is also evidence that some operators have been adopting a variety of devices to artificially split longer routes into a series of shorter ones.

Departmental officials met representatives of the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) on 17 April to discuss the concerns expressed by rural bus service operators about the burdens imposed by the EU drivers' hours rules and possible solutions within the framework of the existing legislation. Criteria have been agreed for deciding whether a route is a separate route for the purposes of the 50km threshold and this should provide greater certainty for operators who wish to continue to operate outside the EU regime. The CPT also advised that some operators of longer distance routes have accepted that the EU rules should apply and are now operating under those rules.

The Government will explore any opportunities that may arise to re-examine the issue in Europe although any proposal to change the 50km threshold would require the support of a qualified majority of other member states. Other member states may have different views and there is a risk that any review of the EU regulation could result in a greater number of local bus services being brought into the EU rules.

Petition

Thursday 15 May 2008

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration (Adela Mahoro Mugabo)

The Petition of the Mahoro Must Stay Campaign,

Declares that Adela Mahoro Mugabo, who is to be removed to Rwanda, is the widow of a man murdered in 2002 by the Interharamwe Hutus, and as a Hutu herself was accused by the Rwandan Military Intelligence of covering up for her husband's murderers. The Petitioners further declare that Mahoro was tortured and raped, and is now HIV-positive, and that if she is returned to Rwanda she will still be in danger and will be unable to get the anti-retroviral drugs she needs to survive.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Home Secretary to instruct a reconsideration of the Home Office decision and allow Adela Mahoro Mugabo to stay in the UK, a safe environment in which she will be able to lead a healthy life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Leech, Official Report,* 28 January 2008; Vol. 471, c. 138 .] [P000114]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government is unable to comment on the individual case in order to protect the privacy of the individual.

The information that has been submitted will be fully considered by the UK Border Agency against our traditions and obligations of providing humanitarian protection to those who need it.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 28 April 2008

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Administration of Justice: Appeals

Nick Herbert: To ask the Solicitor-General how many appeals on the grounds of undue leniency were made in each of the last five years. [200203]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office publishes annual statistics on unduly lenient sentence references on its website:

www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk

The following table shows the number of offenders whose sentences were referred to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient, the number of offenders whose references were subsequently withdrawn and the number of offenders who were therefore brought before the Court of Appeal in each of the last five years for which full statistics have been published.

	Offenders referred to Court of Appeal	*Withdrawn references*	*Offenders brought to the Court of Appeal*
2002	148	9	139
2003	102	6	96
2004	159	22	137
2005	127	19	108
2006	160	16	144

Nick Herbert: To ask the Solicitor-General how many appeals on the grounds of undue leniency against the minimum tariff applied in cases of indeterminate sentences for public protection were made in each of the last three years. [200205]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office publishes annual statistics on unduly lenient sentence references on its website:

www.attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk

The following table shows the number of offenders whose sentences were referred to the Court of Appeal on the basis that the minimum term attached to a sentence of imprisonment for public protection (under section 225 (3) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003) was unduly lenient in each of the years when the sentence was available to the court and for which full statistics have been published.

Offenders referred

	Number
2005[1]	0
2006	2

[1] The legislation came into force on 4 April 2005 and applies to offences committed from that date.

Corruption: Bosnia

John Austin: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Attorney General has sought views from other Government Departments about providing consent for the Serious Fraud Office to pursue a prosecution relating to alleged corrupt activity in Bosnia by the UK-based company EFT. [200807]

The Solicitor-General: I do not propose to comment on the details of a case currently under consideration.

John Austin: To ask the Solicitor-General what the reasons are for the time taken by the Attorney General's Office to decide the application for consent for the Serious Fraud Office to pursue an overseas corruption prosecution related to an alleged corrupt activity in Bosnia by a UK-based company. [201993]

The Solicitor-General: A decision whether to consent to a prosecution is not a rubber-stamping exercise. The time taken to process a case may depend on the nature and complexity of the issues, legal and otherwise, and any dialogue with the prosecuting authority that may be necessary. I do not propose to comment on an individual case that is currently under consideration.

Sexual Offences: Appeals

Nick Herbert: To ask the Solicitor-General how many appeals on the grounds of undue leniency against sentences for rape were made in each of the last five years. [200206]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office publishes annual statistics on unduly lenient sentence references on its website:

www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk

The following table shows the number of offenders whose sentences for offences including rape[1] were referred to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient in each of the last five years for which full statistics have been published.

[1] This includes attempted rape, conspiracy to rape and incitement to rape offences.

Offenders referred to Court of Appeal

	Number
2002	4
2003	12
2004	12
2005	11
2006	18

Teachers: Misconduct

Michael Gove: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) how many allegations of assault or professional misconduct brought against teachers by pupils were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service in each year since 1997; [202068]

(2) how many teachers prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service were found guilty of assault or professional misconduct following allegations by pupils in each year since 1997. [202072]

The Solicitor-General: The records maintained by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) do not identify defendants in criminal proceedings by their profession or by their professional relationship with victims. To obtain this information, by reference to individual case files, would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Equality

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much expenditure his Department has incurred in conducting *(a)* equality screening exercises and *(b)* equality impact assessments in each of the last three years. [200614]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has in each of the last three years only incurred normal staff costs in conducting *(a)* equality screening exercises and *(b)* equality impact assessments as no external resources were engaged to carry out these exercises.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* equality screening exercises and *(b)* equality impact assessments his Department conducted in each of the last three years; and how many of each it proposes to conduct in 2008. [200621]

Mr. Woodward: Details of *(a)* equality screening exercises and *(b)* equality impact assessments conducted by the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last three years are available in the Department's Section 75 Annual Progress Reports which appear on the NIO website at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/niopublication/niopubsearchresults.htm?category=Rights_and_Equality&keyword=Section+75&order=date&submitbutton.x=10&submitbutton.y=11

Information on the number of *(a)* equality screening exercises and *(b)* equality impact assessments the Department proposes to conduct in 2008-09 is being collated and will appear in the 2007-08 Annual Progress Report which will be published on the NIO website later this year.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many public consultations have been held by his Department since March 2007; and how many respondents took part in each consultation carried out by his Department in the last three years. [196680]

Mr. Woodward: In each of the last three years the Northern Ireland Office held the following number of public consultations:

	Number
2005-06	16
2006-07	20
2007-08	8

The number of responses to these consultations varies greatly ranging from no responses in the consultation "Search Code of Practice issued under POCA 2002", to several thousand responses in the consultation on "Review of Sexual Offences".

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2689W, on departmental translation services, how much his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on translation services into *(a)* Irish, *(b)* Welsh and *(c)* other languages in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 to date. [197551]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not held centrally and to provide this information would incur disproportionate costs. The Department, associated agencies and non-departmental bodies can provide the following information on translation services:

Spend on translation services

£

	Irish	*Other languages*
2003-04	687.38	114,314.45
2004-05	1,105.91	256,772.79
2005-06	576.50	526,878.07
2006-07	1,963.00	910,160.00

Spend on translation services into other languages mainly comprises ethnic minority languages.

As indicated in a previous question (187993) figures are not yet available for the period 2007-08 but we shall lay this information in the Library of the House as soon as it becomes available.

Driving under Influence: Reoffenders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people convicted of drink-driving related offences in Northern Ireland where a custodial sentence was not given were subsequently convicted of similar offences within 12 months of the original conviction in the last five years. [201507]

Paul Goggins: The table gives the number of convictions for drink/drug-driving related offences in Northern Ireland where a non-custodial sentence was given. Data in relation to the number of people who were subsequently convicted of similar offences within 12 months are not available. However, in 2004 (the latest year for which data are available) the two-year reconviction rate for all those sentenced to supervised community sentences was 33.7 per cent. compared with the predicted rate of 42.8 per cent. While we are not complacent, this is an encouraging sign and a clear indication that the measures and wide range of schemes put in place by the various criminal justice agencies to help reduce reconviction by offenders is having a positive impact.

Data in the following table cover the calendar years 2002 to 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of persons convicted of drink/drug-driving related offences[1] in Northern Ireland who were given non-custodial sentences 2002-06

	Number of persons given non-custodial sentences
2002	2,239
2003	2,537
2004	2,660
2005	2,779
2006	2,785

[1] It is not possible to separate out drug-related offences from alcohol-related offences for the offences of 'driving when unfit through drink or drugs', 'driving while under the influence of', 'attempting to drive while under the influence of' and 'in charge of a vehicle when under the influence of'.

Electoral Register

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the percentage of 18 year olds in Northern Ireland on the electoral register. [201508]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State has not made an estimate of the percentage of 18-year-olds in Northern Ireland on the electoral register. This is a matter for the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland and the hon. Member may wish to contact the Chief Electoral Officer directly.

Emergency Calls: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many 999 calls turned out to be hoaxes in 2007; and how many such callers then involved a genuine 999 call in the same general vicinity. [201505]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

"The total number of hoax calls using the reporting method of 999 to PSNI from 1 January to 31 December 2007 was 884. The information sought in the second half of the question is not recorded in the way requested but the total number of non hoax calls using the same method was 99,296."

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria are used for the recruitment process to the Police Service of Northern Ireland of those who respond to advertisements in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Irish Republic and *(c)* Great Britain. [201353]

Paul Goggins: I am advised by PSNI that the criteria and assessment process for the recruitment of regular officers to the Police Service of Northern Ireland are exactly the same, regardless of origin of application.

Prisoner Escapes: Causeway Hospital

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the review into the escape from custody of the prisoner attending the Causeway hospital on Tuesday 15 April 2008 to be concluded. [201506]

Paul Goggins: Terms of reference for the review were issued by the Prison Service's Deputy Director, Head of Operations, on 16 April, and specified that the report should be completed within 14 working days, i.e. 6 May. The investigating officer started interviews on Monday 21 April and it is expected that the review will be completed on schedule.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) how much and what proportion of the finance for the cost of the construction of the athletes' village for the 2012 Olympic Games is planned to be raised on the debt markets; [201988]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with Bovis/Lend Lease on raising capital for financing the construction of the Olympic village; [201989]

(3) when she expects to announce the award of the contract for the construction of the athletes' village for the 2012 Olympics; [201990]

(4) what her most recent estimate is of the public funding to be allocated to supporting the broadcast and media centres at the Olympic village for the 2012 Olympics; [201991]

(5) if she will provide a breakdown by main budget heading of the £492 million figure announced in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Annual Olympics Report of January 2008 allocated to construction of the *(a)* broadcast and media centres and *(b)* Olympic village for the 2012 Olympics. [201992]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 454W. The combined public sector budget for the IBC/MPC and the Olympic village remains at £492 million. However, the exact value of the overall public sector contribution will be finalised as sensitive commercial negotiations are closed out and, until then, we cannot disclose the further details requested.

SCOTLAND

Festivals and Special Occasions: USA

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department played a role in *(a)* Tartan Day and *(b)* other Scotland Week events in the United States in April 2008. [201833]

David Cairns: There was no Scotland Office involvement in events in the US in April.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Select Committees: Regional Government

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Leader of the House what the reasons are for the time taken to set up regional select committees; and when she expects them to be appointed. [201016]

Helen Goodman: This matter is being considered by the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons and the Government await its report with interest. The Committee invited evidence from October last year and has subsequently held a number of oral evidence sessions. The Government will bring forward proposals in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Energy: EU Law

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his officials will next meet the European Commission to discuss the Energy-using Products Directive. [201012]

Joan Ruddock: My officials held a teleconference with the European Commission on 24 April to discuss the draft implementing measure on boilers and water heaters under the Energy Using Products Directive.

Lighting: Waste Disposal

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the safe disposal of compact fluorescent lamps. [201007]

Joan Ruddock: Low-energy light bulbs should be disposed of responsibly and advice on their safe disposal has been made available on DEFRA's public website.

From 1 July 2007, waste Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs—the most common type of energy efficient bulbs) have been subject to the requirements of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations. Those who sell items such as energy efficient bulbs must provide information to the public about where they can take waste bulbs and other WEEE. Some retailers will also take them back in store. However, most retailers have funded Designated Collection Facilities—the majority of these are at local authority civic amenity sites. From this point, producers of such equipment fund its transport, treatment and recycling.

CFLs contain a small amount of mercury (limited to 5mg by the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive) but it cannot escape from an intact bulb. Even if a bulb should break, the risks from such a small amount of mercury are minimal.

Plastics: Recycling

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to facilitate development of plastics recycling facilities. [202078]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 557W.

Recycling

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was recycled by each local authority in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* Lincolnshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [201969]

Joan Ruddock: The tonnages of household waste recycled, reused or composted by each local authority in Yorkshire and the Humber and Lincolnshire in 2006-07 are listed in the following table.

Household waste sent for recycling/reuse/composting

	Type of authority	*tonnage*
(a) Yorkshire and the Humber		
Barnsley	UA	26,461
Bradford	UA	56,373
Calderdale	UA	18,967
Craven	WCA	7,902
Doncaster	UA	38,814
East Riding	UA	55,769
Hambleton	WCA	15,677
Harrogate	WCA	12,043
Hull	UA	25,389
Kirklees	UA	40,334
Leeds	UA	77,656
North East Lincolnshire	UA	22,682
North Lincolnshire	UA	35,225
North Yorkshire	WDA	116,679
Richmondshire	WCA	6,409
Rotherham	UA	35,503
Ryedale	WCA	11,412
Scarborough	WCA	9,335
Selby	WCA	11,321
Sheffield	UA	59,617
Wakefield	UA	40,600
York	UA	40,561
(b) Lincolnshire		
Boston	WCA	6,305
East Lindsey	WCA	19,657
Lincoln	WCA	12,770
Lincolnshire	WDA	141,313
North Kesteven	WCA	27,327
South Holland	WCA	7,229
South Kesteven	WCA	16,979
West Lindsey	WCA	11,820

Source:
2006-07 WasteDataFlow results.

Waste Disposal: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what applications his Department has received from Gloucestershire county council in respect of private finance initiative projects for waste disposal. [201326]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA first received an application for private finance initiative (PFI) credits from Gloucestershire county council in 2003. Gloucestershire's proposed waste PFI project was approved by the Department and the Treasury's Project Review Group.

The procurement progressed to the Best and Final Offer stage. However, following a review of all major procurement schemes, the council decided to terminate the procurement and surrender the indicative allocation of PFI credits.

In May 2007 DEFRA received a new Expression of Interest (EoI) from Gloucestershire county council for PFI support. The project will be supporting the implementation of a long-term residual waste treatment solution.

On the basis of the EoI; DEFRA subsequently invited the authority to produce a detailed Outlined Business Case which represents the formal application for PFI credits. The deadline for this is 30 April 2008.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Females

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to achieve the 50 per cent. target for women on the boards of arts organisations; what funding his Department has allocated to such measures over the next 12 months; and when he expects the target to be met. [200293]

Margaret Hodge: The Department is undertaking a range of measures to improve board diversity, and to work towards achieving the target of 50 per cent. representation of women on the boards of its NDPBs. These include widening departmental networks and contacts, encouraging NDPBs to produce diversity plans for appointments, and raising awareness about public appointments generally. It is not possible to predict when this target will be met, but we will continue to work energetically to achieve it. We plan to launch a targeted leaflet and publicity campaign this summer, specifically aimed at reaching and engaging people from under-represented groups, including women, members of ethnic minority groups and people with disabilities. The cost of this campaign is not yet confirmed.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultation process his Department undertook to inform the process by which 50 per cent. was agreed as the target for women's participation in the boards of arts organisations. [200294]

Margaret Hodge: The DCMS target for 50 per cent. representation of women applies to the boards of the NDPBs for which it is responsible, and to which DCMS Ministers make appointments. This target was agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Office.

Culture: Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* arts and crafts and *(b)* museums and heritage initiatives will be prioritised under the Find Your Talent campaign. [201380]

Margaret Hodge: When we announced the Government's plans for a Find Your Talent programme in February 2008, we published a prospectus setting out a core range of activities the pilots, as a minimum, should offer. This includes: learning a musical instrument; visiting and engaging with national and local exhibitions, galleries and museums; taking part in theatre and dance performances; making a piece of visual art or craft; and visiting heritage sites, significant contemporary buildings and public spaces.

Culture: Pilot Schemes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in which 10 areas the Find Your Talent programme will be piloted. [201379]

Margaret Hodge: We are not yet in a position to announce which 10 areas will pilot the Find Your Talent programme.

The deadline for expressions of interest was 7 April. We are hoping to announce the pilot areas by the end of May, following a final decision from Ministers. This will be based on advice from a stakeholder group that includes members from key cultural and educational organisations.

Digital Broadcasting: Elderly

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to assist older people in realising the benefits to be derived from the switchover to digital television. [201368]

Andy Burnham: The Government have announced a Help Scheme to assist the over 75s and those with significant disabilities, including people registered blind and partially sighted, to convert to digital television. The Help Scheme is an end-to-end package of support. As well as provision of a high quality set top box, the Scheme will provide practical assistance to install and use the equipment and the provision of an aerial if needed.

Digital UK has set up a digital outreach programme to deliver information and advice to older people who are under 75, those with sensory, mobility or dexterity impairments, people with learning difficulties and those who are socially isolated. Digital UK has a £2.9 million contract with Digital Outreach Ltd, a company set up by leading UK charities Age Concern England, Help the Aged, Community Service Volunteers and Collective Enterprises Limited, to commission support from local and regional voluntary sector organisations and charities, initially in the first four ITV regions to switch over (Border, West Country, Wales and Granada).

Fossils: Protection

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the outcome of consultations on protection of fossils following the recommendations of the Quinquennial Review by the Committee on the Export of Works of Art in 2003. [201009]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has undertaken no formal public consultation on this matter following the Quinquennial Review of the Reviewing Committee for the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest in 2003.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200216]

Margaret Hodge: My Department does not provide any medical health schemes out of public funds. However, we do provide an Employee Assistance programme, which includes a counselling service.

Internet: Suicide

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to act against internet sites which encourage *(a)* suicide or *(b)* anorexia. [200680]

Margaret Hodge: I am concerned about the potential harm of such internet sites. In March this year we accepted the recommendations of the Byron Review including that the new UK Council on Child Internet Safety look at whether the law around harmful and inappropriate material online could usefully be clarified, and explore appropriate enforcement responses. We expect this to be a key area of work for the council and that will make early recommendations for action if necessary.

Libraries: Finance

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budget is for each public library in Wirral, West constituency for 2008-09. [201617]

Margaret Hodge: The budget for each public library in 2008-09 in Wirral, West constituency, as provided by the Metropolitan borough of Wirral, is as follows:

Library	*Net budget (£)*
[illegible]pton	141,600
West Kirby	161,500
Greasby	118,800
Irby	77,000
Pensby	98,200
Hoylake	125,200
Woodchurch	72,000

Regional Cultural Consortiums: Audit

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what arrangements are in place for auditing the accounts of regional cultural consortia (RCCs) accounts; and what audits have been conducted under these arrangements since RCCs were established. [200299]

Margaret Hodge: The Regional Cultural Consortia (RCCs) are companies limited by guarantee, and audits are carried out under the Companies Act by external auditors appointed by each of the Consortiums. Since the RCCs became executive NDPBs in 2004 there have been audits on a yearly basis.

Following the Government's decision to give the Comptroller and Auditor General (C and A G) statutory powers to carry out audits of companies, it is open to the C and A G to perform this function for the RCCs in future.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the UK's national tourism deficit benchmarked against *(a)* France, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* the United States, *(d)* Australia, *(e)* Spain and *(f)* Portugal. [202087]

Margaret Hodge: The UK's tourism balance of payments deficit for 2006 was £18.4 billion. According to the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), this compared to:

		£ billion
France	Surplus	[1]9.58
Germany	Deficit	[1]27.32
Spain	Surplus	[1]23.85
United States	Surplus	[2]6.34

[1] 2006. [2] 2005, the latest figure held.

These figures have been converted to sterling at current exchange rates. The OECD does not hold the relevant figures for Australia and Portugal.

These figures show the obvious effects of climate and easier air travel. The Government are working with the tourism industry to make holidaying in this country more attractive to UK residents by improving the quality of our tourism offer in key areas, and this work has been brought together through the DCMS Tourism Strategy for 2012.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street Policy Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister who the head of the Number 10 Downing Street Policy Unit is. [199061]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is available on the No. 10 website, at:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12.asp

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his office's website. [200028]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*,

columns 1134-35W. Figures for 2007-08 will be available when the Cabinet Office Annual Resource accounts have been audited.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what *(a)* procedures were followed and *(b)* steps were taken in (i) advertising and (ii) interviewing for the appointment to post in No. 10 Downing Street of (A) Stephen Carter, (B) Nick Stace, (C) Jennifer Moses and (D) David Muir; [199058]

(2) what the duties of the Government Relations Director are; [199059]

(3) to whom *(a)* Jennifer Moses, *(b)* Stephen Carter, *(c)* Nick Stace and *(d)* David Muir report within his Office; who the line manager of each is; and if he will make a statement. [199062]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister who in his office has the status of special adviser; and how much each such staff member is paid. [199064]

The Prime Minister: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each pay band. I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 148-150WS.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* salary, *(b)* status and *(c)* contract terms are of each member of staff at No. 10 Downing Street; when each was appointed; and what the purpose is of each unit and office within No. 10 Downing Street. [199057]

The Prime Minister: Information about the salary and contractual terms of individual members of staff is personal between the employer and employee and therefore not disclosed. The cost and number of No. 10 staff, including special advisers, are published annually.

Official Visits: USA

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* Senators and *(b)* Members of Congress he met during his recent visit to the United States; where the meetings took place in each case; which Government Departments provided briefing materials for his use during the visit; and if he will make a statement. [201927]

The Prime Minister: During my recent visit to the United States I had meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects. In addition, I held separate meetings with Senators McCain, Clinton and Obama at the ambassador's residence in Washington. Briefing was provided by the relevant Government Departments.

Schools: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* schools and *(b)* hospitals in Essex he visited in each month since January 2007; on what dates and for what purpose in each case; and if he will make a statement. [201928]

The Prime Minister: A list of my UK visits will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: United Nations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the term of appointment of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Afghanistan is. [200627]

Dr. Howells: Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary-General, announced the appointment of Kai Eide as his special representative for Afghanistan on 10 March 2008. The appointment is a one year renewable term.

Airports: Official Hospitality

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted Airport were hired by Her Majesty's Government in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [196874]

Meg Munn: Based on Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) records since May 2006, there were 4,309 official FCO bookings at an estimated cost of £1,273,140. Actual costs, for the financial year 2007-08, will be available on receipt of BAA's final bill (trading statement) for that period.

A monthly breakdown of official usage is given as follows.

Bookings from May 2006 to March 2008

	Number of bookings	*Total cost (£) (estimated)*
Heathrow		
2006		
May	414	114,264.00
June	353	97,428.00
July	103	28,428.00
August	44	12,144.00
September	109	30,084.00
October	209	57,684.00
November	310	85,560.00
December	52	14,352.00
2007		
January	176	48,576.00
February	175	48,300.00
March	252	69,552.00

Bookings from May 2006 to March 2008

	Number of bookings	*Total cost (£) (estimated)*
April	174	48,024.00
May	242	66,792.00
June	240	66,240.00
July	174	48,024.00
August	67	18,492.00
September	184	50,784.00
October	170	46,920.00
November	140	38,640.00
December	97	26,772.00
2008		
January	105	28,980.00
February	115	31,740.00
March	83	22,908.00
Total	3,988	1,100,688.00
Gatwick		
2006		
May	30	12,480.00
June	11	4,576.00
July	8	3,328.00
August	0	0.00
September	12	4,992.00
October	10	4,160.00
November	14	5,824.00
December	12	4,992.00
2007		
January	13	5,408.00
February	9	3,744.00
March	14	5,824.00
April	21	13,083.00
May	21	13,083.00
June	27	16,821.00
July	0	0.00
August	6	3,738.00
September	19	11,837.00
October	26	16,198.00
November	21	13,083.00
December	21	13,083.00
2008		
January	7	4,361.00
February	7	4,361.00
March	12	7,476.00
Total	321	172,452.00

Burma: Internally Displaced Persons

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to mitigate the challenges arising from the volume of internally displaced people in Karenni state and other parts of eastern Burma; and which of these have been taken in co-operation with the Government of Thailand. [200347]

Meg Munn: I visited Thailand from 28 February to 1 March and met several non-governmental organisations working in the refugee camps on the Burma/Thailand border. I also raised the plight of ethnic groups in the border region with the Thai Minister of Interior.

The UK provides support to people in Karenni state through several mechanisms:

funding for the UN Development Programme's Human Development Initiative;

our significant contribution to the Three Diseases Fund, which supports work on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria in Karenni state;

support provided through local faith based organisations who are able to reach internally displaced people from inside the country; and

support from Thailand through the Thailand-Burma Border Consortium, which is providing assistance to the refugee camp bordering Karenni state, Ban Mae Noi Sae.

UK funding for projects in Karenni state is part of our effort to provide humanitarian assistance to people suffering poverty and deprivation across Burma. The Department for International Development's programme in Burma is increasing from £9 million in 2007-08 to £18 million in 2010-11.

Burma: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to invoke the UN Security Council principle of the responsibility to protect in relation to Burma. [200346]

Meg Munn: We continue to support the concept of Responsibility to Protect, under which Governments have the responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

As a member of the UN Security Council, the UK has persistently stated that the military regime in Burma must account for the systematic and appalling human rights abuses it commits against Burma's people. We strongly support the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma and his work to gather evidence of the abuses that have taken place. We have called for his early return to Burma to be facilitated by the regime to enable the Rapporteur to continue his vital role.

The UK has helped to secure strong resolutions on Burma at the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly Third Committee, and worked to keep Burma on the Security Council agenda. The President of the UN Security Council's statement in October 2007 required a number of actions by the regime, including an inclusive transition to democracy. With the Burmese military rulers' failure to deliver any tangible outcomes despite the good work by the office of the UN Secretary-General, we will continue to consider options for further Security Council action with like-minded partners in New York.

Commonwealth: Scholarships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people received funding under the Commonwealth Scholarships Programme in 2006-07, broken down by country of origin. [200285]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The number of scholars funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in 2006-07, including those in their first, second or third year of study, was as follows:

	Number
Australia	30
Bahamas	1
Canada	47
Cyprus	2
New Zealand	21
Singapore	4
Total	105

Cuba

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Cuba. [202112]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to visit Cuba.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment in his Department there were in each month since May 2005. [199536]

Meg Munn: The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has published civil service employment statistics, broken down by Department, in the Public Sector Employment First Release every quarter since January 2006. Prior to January 2006 the Cabinet Office published civil service employment statistics annually.

The following table sets out the Cabinet Office figures for permanent UK civil servants and permanent UK non-civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 2005 and the corresponding ONS figures for each quarter since January 2006.

	Permanent civil servants	*Permanent non-civil servants*
December 2007	6,090	10
September 2007	6,120	9
June 2007	6,170	11
March 2007	6,110	10
December 2006	6,130	10
September 2006	6,190	10
June 2006	6,240	6
March 2006	6,290	6
September 2005	6,000	4

Individual business managers are responsible for employing agency and temporary workers. The FCO does not hold central records of their employment.

Developing Countries: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to promote human rights in developing countries. [200976]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

A reply to my hon. Friend's question will be issued shortly.

Ethiopia: Politics and Government

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent UN report on the humanitarian situation in the Somali region of Ethiopia. [200345]

Meg Munn: The UN published its report on the Somali Region of Ethiopia in September 2007. The UN has not published a further report since. We welcomed the Ethiopian Government's acceptance of the UN assessment team's appraisal and we continue to urge the Ethiopian Government to adhere to its commitments in relation to the report—opening-up of trade routes, lifting restrictions on movement, allowing food aid to reach all parts of the region and allowing non-governmental organisations greater access. However, we continue to be concerned at the risk of further human suffering and therefore look forward to full implementation of the report's findings. The UK continues to raise this with the Government of Ethiopia at regular intervals. My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown raised this issue when he met Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in late January. Most recently, our ambassador in Addis Ababa discussed ways to improve the situation in the Somali region with the Ethiopian Foreign Minister in March.

Ethiopia: Qatar

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Ethiopia about that country's relationship with Qatar. [201565]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with the Government of Ethiopia about their relationship with Qatar.

Gaza: Weapons

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the government of Egypt on the trafficking of people and weapons into Gaza from Egypt via under-border tunnels. [200350]

Dr. Howells: Arms and people smuggling into Gaza remain a great concern. The Quadrilateral Committee, which consists of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and the US, has been working closely to address the issue of smuggling and border control. The EU commends and supports efforts by the Government of Egypt to contribute in finding a peaceful and orderly solution.

Our embassy in Cairo regularly meet with Egyptian interlocutors to discuss various issues, including the situation in Gaza.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department's advice to UK citizens living in or travelling to Kenya has changed in the last month. [202159]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office keeps travel advice under close and constant review. Our travel advice for Kenya has been changed 50 times so far in 2008. We made 36 changes in January, 10 in February, two in March and two in April. The Kenya travel advice was last updated on 18 April to make factual changes relating to clashes between the Kenyan police and the outlawed criminal Mungiki sect, and the formation of the Kenyan Grand Coalition Government.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the use of longer-range Katyusha rockets in attacks on Israel on the political situation in that country; and what representations he has received on options for the prevention of the use of such weapons. [200351]

Dr. Howells: In recent months Katyusha rockets have been fired from the Gaza Strip at Israel. These rockets have a longer range, which brings more Israeli towns, citizens and infrastructure facilities within striking distance. The Government continue to call on all Palestinian factions in Gaza to stop attacks, including rocket attacks. They aim to target civilians and to undermine the Annapolis process and escalate an already tense situation.

At the same time, Israel must ensure its actions are in accordance with international law. It is important that all parties find a way to restore calm for the sake of the populations on both sides.

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the recent increase in rocket attacks by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad on the security situation in Israel; and if he will make a statement. [200352]

Dr. Howells: The UK is deeply concerned by rocket attacks from Gaza against Israeli citizens. The launching of rockets against Israeli civilian targets and all forms of violence must stop. Violence serves only to undermine the prospects for peace and security in the region.

The Government continue to call on all Palestinian factions to stop attacks, including rocket attacks, which target civilians and only escalate an already tense situation. At the same time, Israel must ensure its actions are in accordance with international law. It is important for both sides to exercise the utmost restraint and refrain from the use of force.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular discussions on the security situation in Gaza, including most recently with Israeli Defence Minister Barak and with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 17 April. Our embassy in Tel Aviv and our consulate in Jerusalem regularly meet with Israeli and Palestinian interlocutors to discuss various issues, including the situation in Gaza.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* allowances, *(b)* travel costs and *(c)* accommodation have been provided to staff seconded from his Department to support the work of (i) James Wolfensohn and (ii) Tony Blair in their roles as Quartet Representatives; and if he will make a statement. [200833]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) did not second any staff to support the work of James Wolfensohn when he held the role of the Quartet Representative for Gaza disengagement.

The FCO has seconded three members of staff to work in the Quartet Representative's office in London. The UK has provided £400,000 to a UN Development Programme Trust Fund which provides support to the Quartet Representative. The Quartet Representative's office in London and Jerusalem draw from this trust fund to meet their costs.

We do not have figures for all expenses and costs associated with the Quartet Representative's office in Jerusalem or in London. The right hon. Tony Blair has been appointed by, and reports to, the Quartet (US, EU, UN and Russia). It is a matter for the Quartet to determine whether to publish details of the right hon. Tony Blair's team, costs and funding.

Papua: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken in the last 12 months and *(b)* plans to take to promote effective dialogue between the Government of Indonesia and representatives of the people of West Papua on conflict resolution. [200301]

Meg Munn: We believe that the complex issues in Papua can best be resolved through peaceful dialogue between the people of Papua, their elected representatives and the central Government of Indonesia. The dialogue is ongoing. Indonesian Vice President Kalla, along with a team of Ministers, visited Papua most recently in February to discuss economic and social development with representatives of the Papuan people. Papuan leaders regularly visit Jakarta. The Indonesian President has committed his Government to improving the situation in Papua, which we welcome. Governor Suebu, of Papua province, is pressing ahead with his development programmes, underpinned by the significant financial resources now being directed to Papua as a result of its special autonomy status.

We continue to encourage all sides to maintain a meaningful dialogue that focuses on implementing fully the existing special autonomy legislation. We judge that

this is the best way to ensure the long-term stability and development of Papua and its people.

At the UN Human Rights Council examination of Indonesia under the Universal Periodic Review, in Geneva on 9 April, the UK welcomed Indonesia's substantial progress on human rights since 1998, but noted ongoing concerns in Papua.

Our embassy in Jakarta follows the situation in Papua closely and is in regular contact with human rights organisations, non-governmental organisations and academics working in the region. Embassy staff also visit Papua regularly, most recently from 15 to 20 February 2008. While there, they held discussions with local officials, non-governmental organisations and representatives of religious organisations. The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing funding for four development advisers to the Governor of Papua. Their work focuses on poverty alleviation, public finance and infrastructure. DFID is also funding HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment activities in Papua, as well as focusing on improving forest governance livelihoods to address poverty reduction and deforestation in Papua. We continue to engage with Papuan leaders on a range of issues, including conflict prevention, and we fund several projects in Papua, including human rights training for the police.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in the week beginning 28th April to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea; and whether Mr. Mann is still being continuously shackled. [198172]

Meg Munn: Our consul from the British Deputy High Commission in Lagos was refused consular access to Simon Mann during his last visit to Equatorial Guinea in March. We have expressed our concern to the Equatorial Guinea authorities and are urgently seeking another consular visit. His welfare remains our primary concern.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Governments in Southern Africa following the elections in Zimbabwe on political and economic stability. [202158]

Meg Munn: In the aftermath of the elections my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown have been in regular contact with heads of state and foreign ministers in the region and in the wider international community, in particular with President Mbeki. We will continue to speak to leaders in the region and encourage them to use their influence to bring about a swift resolution to the crisis.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Mining

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on the effects of Global Coal Management Resources plc's open cast mining at Phulbari in north-west Bangladesh on development and poverty reduction in the area. [198831]

Mr. Malik: Global Coal Management Resources (GCM) does not currently have any mining operations in Phulbari, Bangladesh, but we are aware that plans exist. We have not received any reports on the potential effects of this, but we are aware that the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) has been assessing it. The bank has recently announced that they will not go ahead with the project proposal.

Some international and national organisations have raised concerns to us and AsDB about the environmental sustainability of the proposed project and possible negative effects for the population living in the area.

DFID's position on this has been that the social and environmental aspects of investments made by the bank need to be thoroughly considered and the bank's own procedures for project proposals must be followed.

Constella Group: HIV Infection

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of Constella's compliance with the UN Aids guidelines on criminalisation, disclosure and testing in relation to HIV. [199695]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government have made no formal assessment as to whether Constella Futures Group complies with UNAIDS guidelines on criminalisation, disclosure and testing in relation to HIV. We understand that the issue of compliance has arisen with regard to legislation in a number of west African countries, which DFID has not financed. We are in discussion with UNAIDS about actions they can take to promote compliance with the guidelines.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent civil service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199533]

Gillian Merron: Due to the way historic records are held by the Department for International Development (DFID), the separate salary costs for permanent civil service posts and fixed term posts in each month since May 2005 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DFID employs locally engaged staff, who work in more than 50 overseas offices. They are employed on local terms and conditions. Their salaries vary from country to country and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table covers the costs paid to the three suppliers of temporary administrative staff managed centrally since 2005.

	£
May 2005	153,536.51
June 2005	142,599.46
July 2005	127,028.59
August 2005	115,890.50
September 2005	107,410.47
October 2005	103,369.50
November 2005	112,094.65
December 2005	101,490.64
January 2006	82,844.95
February 2006	81,161.81
March 2006	99,102.70
April 2006	58,766.65
May 2006	77,745.67
June 2006	116,696.65
July 2006	76,263.09
August 2006	110,239.99
September 2006	78,022.71
October 2006	95,190.27
November 2006	115,704.68
December 2006	102,202.54
January 2007	80,639.81
February 2007	106,944.08
March 2007	95,471.96
April 2007	58,254.02
May 2007	67,386.20
June 2007	56,587.46
July 2007	67,794.88
August 2007	65,631.06
September 2007	65,238.33
October 2007	72,396.59
November 2007	72,286.61
December 2007	57,578.24
January 2008	59,034.57
February 2008	68,030.28
March 2008	73,737.76

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are used by his Department. [200129]

Gillian Merron: DFID has one 0845 number which enables members of the public to call the public enquiry point in East Kilbride from anywhere in the United Kingdom, charged at standard local rates. DFID does not use any 0800 or 0870 numbers.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve *(a)* the availability of therapeutic foods and medical supplies and *(b)* the capacity to respond to health and nutrition emergencies in rural areas in the Somali region of Ethiopia. [200401]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development has contributed £4 million in 2007 to the Humanitarian Response Fund, managed by the United Nations. With support from the fund, a number of non-governmental organisations have provided high nutrient food, immunisation and other basic health services through four mobile clinics.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking in co-operation with *(a)* Ethiopian authorities and *(b)* non-governmental organisations to provide humanitarian assistance in the Somali region of Ethiopia. [200402]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development channels funds for humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia, including assistance for Somali region, through the Humanitarian Response Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The fund supports the work of non-governmental organisations and United Nations (UN) organisations in Ethiopia. In 2007 we provided the fund with £4 million and as a result about 12 non-governmental organisations and a number of UN agencies were able to respond to needs in the region.

Ethiopia: Politics and Government

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response he has made to the recent UN humanitarian assessment of the Somali region in Ethiopia. [200769]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government agree with the recommendations made in the United Nations assessment of the Somalia region in September 2007. We provided the UN-managed Humanitarian Response Fund with £4 million in 2007, to respond to humanitarian needs in Somali region and in other parts of Ethiopia. In response to an appeal from the Government and UN agencies in April 2008, we are considering a further contribution of £3 million for 2008.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Finance

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support his Department has provided to *(a)* projects and *(b)* institutions involved in research into genetically modified species in each of the last five years. [200395]

Mr. Thomas: In 2005-06, DFID contributed £1,553,000 to two programmes that included research using genetically modified (GM) techniques. These were the Plant Sciences Research Programme and the Aquaculture and Fish Genetics Research Programme. The main institutions that received grants included: Bangor University; Overseas Development Institute; Bath University; World Fish Centre; Stirling University; and, Asian Institute of Technology.

Since 2003 DFID has given £20 million per annum in unrestricted funding to the centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. A list of these, and other international organisations receiving DFID support, is shown as follows. Some of these use GM techniques. However, it is not possible to attribute DFID funding to specific activities.

From 2003 to 2008 DFID has provided £5 million to the African Agricultural Technology Foundation to facilitate access to both GM and conventional agricultural technologies. Last financial year DFID awarded £7.1 million of grants for research that will include the use of GM and non-GM biotechnologies. Details of these grants are provided in Table 1.

Names of international institutions receiving DFID support to conduct agricultural research

Africa Rice Center (formerly West African Rice Research and Development Authority)

World Vegetable Centre (formerly Asian Vegetable Research Development Centre)

Bioversity International (formerly International Plant Genetics Research Institute)

CABI—(formally Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux)

Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo (CIMMYT)

Centro Internacional de la Papa (CIP)

International Centre for Development Orientated Research in Africa (ICRA)

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

World Agro forestry Centre (formerly International Centre for Research on Agroforestry)

World Fish Centre (International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management)

Harvest Plus Challenge Programme

Water and Food Challenge Programme

Sub Saharan Challenge Programme

Genetic Diversity Challenge Programme

Table 2: Summary of Grants Awarded under the joint DFID and Biological and Biotechnology Science Research Council Sustainable Agriculture Research for International Development programme

Institutions	*Country*	*Title*	*Budget (£)*
Leeds University	UK	Nematode resistant plantain for African subsistence growers.	524,216
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	Uganda		
John Innes Centre	UK	Assessment of genetic biodiversity of durable disease resistance in African wheat genotypes, leading to the development of markers for wheat breeding.	662,385
University of Free State	South Africa		
Nottingham University	UK	Phytoplasma diseases of coconuts: Understanding their transmission, and the sustainable breeding of resistant and tolerant varieties.	355,684
Oil Palm Research Institute	Ghana		
Natural Resources Institute	UK	How resistant plant varieties avoid suppression of RNA silencing by viruses as exemplified by sweet potato: Better food security through virus control.	727,544
University of Cambridge	UK		
Central Science Laboratory	UK		
The International Potato Center	Peru		
Makerere University	Uganda		
National Agricultural Research Organisation	Uganda		
University of Warwick	UK	Accelerated breeding of black rot resistant brassicas for the benefit of east African smallholders.	729,705
CABI	Kenya		
Central Science Laboratory	UK		
Rothamsted	UK	Towards incorporating the biosynthetic transformation required for Striga inhibition from Desmodium into edible legume intercrops.	620,877
International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology	Kenya		

Table 2: Summary of Grants Awarded under the joint DFID and Biological and Biotechnology Science Research Council Sustainable Agriculture Research for International Development programme

Institutions	*Country*	*Title*	*Budget (£)*
Rothamsted	UK	Nutrient regulation of the saprotroph to parasite transition in Pochonia chlamydosporia, a soil microbial inoculant for nematode control.	408,308
University of Nairobi	Kenya		
Aberdeen	UK	Characterizing genetic and soil induced variation in arsenic uptake, translocation and metabolism in rice to mitigate arsenic contamination in Asia.	657,328
Calcutta University	India		
Bangladesh Agricultural University	Bangladesh		
Chinese Academy of Sciences	China		
International Rice Research Institute	Philippines		
Rothamsted	UK		
National Institute of Agricultural Botany	UK	Cis-acting regulatory elements in the rice genome: a novel source of alleles for rice breeding.	607,807
International Rice Research Institute	Philippines		
Sheffield (WARDA)	UK	Unravelling the molecular genetic basis of Striga resistance in cereals: integrating Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL) and genomic approaches.	596,880
International Crops	India		
Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics African Rice Center	Senegal		
National Institute of Agricultural Botany	UK		
Lancaster University	UK	Understanding the mechanisms of persistence and dispersal of an insect pathogen and its potential for novel strategic control of African armyworms.	617,328
Natural Resources Institute, Greenwich	UK		
Laurentian University	Canada		
Sokoine University of Agriculture	Tanzania		
Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research	UK	Integrating genomics and mapping approaches to improve pearl millet productivity in drought prone regions of Africa and Asia.	634,859
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	India		
University of Cape Coast	Ghana		
All India Coordinated RP on Pearl Millet	India		

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on providing support for research into the development and use of genetically modified species variations. [200397]

Mr. Thomas: DFID recognises that the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) can have potential significant benefits for farmers in developing countries if applied safely and responsibly. At the same time, an over-riding objective is to safeguard human health and the environment and to give consumers informed choices. Our policy is that DFID will support research involving GMOs as long as international rules, including the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, are followed and it is targeted to help developing countries make their own informed choices about whether to use GM technologies.

HIV Infection: Overseas Aid

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services; and if he will make a statement. [198684]

Gillian Merron: Progress towards the goal of Universal Access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support will be reviewed by the international community during 2008. Data being prepared for the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on AIDS in June will inform the review process. UNAIDS will use these data to assess progress against the interim Universal Access targets (milestones), set by countries during 2006-07, in the final quarter of 2008.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199613]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) paid JP Morgan a total of £672,784 in 2001 for work completed on the Andhra Pradesh (India) Power Sector Reform project.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 5 March 2008, on economic partnership agreements. [202161]

Mr. Thomas: The reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 5 March 2008 has been issued.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Government's grant to the United Nations Development Trust Fund to support the work of Quartet Representative Tony Blair is included as part of the Government's Official Development Assistance budget; and if he will make a statement. [200836]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK grant of £400,000 to the office of the Quartet Special Representative, Tony Blair, is drawn from the DFID Palestinian aid framework and forms part of the UK development assistance budget. The mandate of Tony Blair to 'facilitate the efforts of the international community to help Palestinians to build the institutions and economy of a viable state' is consistent with the objectives of the UK aid programme in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people are being given food and other humanitarian assistance in Sudan by *(a)* the World Food Programme and *(b)* other international humanitarian agencies to which the UK contributes. [199447]

Gillian Merron: The World Food Programme (WFP) provided food assistance to 5.8 million people in Sudan during 2007. The UK Government's bilateral partners in Darfur and southern Sudan provide humanitarian assistance across a range of sectors to a total of over 2.5 million people.

In addition, the UK Government provided £40 million to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) for 2008. The CHF funds humanitarian agencies to address the most urgent of the humanitarian needs across Sudan that have been identified in the UN Workplan.

Zimbabwe: Education

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of children under 11 years of age in Zimbabwe were estimated to be enrolled in full-time education in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [202157]

Gillian Merron: Available data cover net enrolment of children aged 7 to 12 attending primary school in 1994, 1999 and 2006. Net enrolment was 86 per cent. in 1994, 65 per cent. in 1999 and 91 per cent. in 2006.

TRANSPORT

Biofuel: Buses

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the effect of the addition of a five per cent. blend of biodiesel in fuel tanks to fuel on commercial bus operations on fungus growth in such tanks. [202484]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are aware that in some circumstances the use of biodiesel blends can be associated with bacterial contamination in fuel tanks. The problem tends to arise particularly where the biodiesel does not meet the relevant fuel quality standards. The issue is not a new one: biodiesel blends have been used for many years by bus operators in the UK and other countries. It can generally be addressed through good housekeeping practices, such as regular tank cleaning, and by the use of various fuel additives. These are matters for the transport fuel industry to resolve: commercial bus operators and others should ensure that fuel quality requirements are covered in any fuel supply contracts.

Biofuels

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the adequacy of information contained in the sustainability reports of suppliers of biofuels. [202020]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The first such reports are due to be submitted to the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) by 16 June. Thereafter, the RFA will be reporting regularly on the information it receives on the sustainability of the biofuels used in the UK.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many senior citizen bus passes were delayed on account of her Department's failure to give the necessary information to the contractors Euclid in good time. [201008]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None. However, I understand that a number of travel concession authorities have their passes produced by Euclid. The Department had nothing to do with any arrangements made by authorities with Euclid.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether a taxi operating as a bus service under the Transport Act 1985 and licensed as a restricted PSV operator under Part II of the Public Passenger Act 1981 is able to offer concessionary fares under the national concessionary fare scheme; and whether this applies to those with *(a)* eight seats or more on a timetable and *(b)* fewer than eight seats or not on a timetable. [201388]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A licensed taxi has to be a vehicle with fewer than nine passenger seats.

To operate as a taxi-bus the licensed taxi's owner has to acquire from the Traffic Commissioner a Special Restricted Public Service Vehicle operator licence (under section 12 of the Transport Act 1985). This enables the vehicle to run a registered bus service (as a taxi-bus) at certain times of the day and be used for conventional taxi work at other times.

The Local Services (Operation by Taxis) Regulations 1986 requires the display of a "bus" sign and prohibits the use of an illuminated taxi sign during the vehicle's use as a taxi-bus.

The Travel Concessions (Eligible Services) Order 2002 describes circumstances where a taxi-bus could be considered an eligible service for concessionary travel. It is for the local Travel Concession Authority to determine whether a taxi-bus service meets the requirements which include:

being available to the general public at bus stops;

running to a published timetable; and,

offering transport to and from any stops on the route, with fares payable to the driver and not set at a level which is likely to act as a deterrent to bus users.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many public consultations were held by her Department in each of the last three years; and how many respondents took part in each consultation. [198634]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department undertook the following number of consultations in each of the last three years:

	Number
2007	58
2006	42
2005	50

The number of respondents to these consultations varies greatly, from two in the case of our consultation on the "Report on Channel Tunnel Order 2007 to transpose Railway Safety Directive for the UK" to about 70,000 on the "Adding capacity at Heathrow airport—Consultation document" and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Government responses to each consultation, including how many respondents took part in each one, are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200227]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Across the Department for Transport there are employee assistance providers who provide support to employees. The service, funded by the Department, provides professional advice, guidance and in some cases counselling sessions for staff who could be facing a variety of personal problems.

The Department also has access to qualified occupational health advisers who provide medical and health related advice that includes advice on sick absence cases, pre-employment health checks, work station assessments and medical check-ups in specific work areas.

Exceptionally, the Department may pay towards the cost of physiotherapy or cognitive behavioural therapy both to assist in the employee's return to work and as a preventative measure. It would need to be clearly demonstrated that the therapy would result in an earlier return to work than would otherwise be the case. In these cases we would work with our occupational health advisers to agree the best course of action.

These professional services and support mechanisms support the Department in its drive to promote employee well-being, reduce sickness absence and facilitate a return to work as soon as possible.

Lorries

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the number of lorries which will be required to comply with European legislation on the retro-fitting of safety mirrors; and how many lorries will be exempt because they were registered before 2000; [201820]

(2) for what reasons the Government do not plan to require older lorries with suitable cabs to have additional safety mirrors fitted; [201821]

(3) what the Government's timetable is to implement European legislation on retro-fitting of safety mirrors to lorries registered in the UK before 2000 in order to meet the deadline of March 2009 stipulated in the relevant Directive. [201822]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are approximately 419,000 currently registered goods vehicles and 161,000 of these are exempt from the retro-fit requirement because the cab-height is too low for the mirrors to be installed. Around 157,000 vehicles will be upgraded by the retro-fit requirement and the remaining 100,000 are exempt because they were registered prior to 2000.

The Council of Ministers considered an earlier introduction date than 1 January 2000 for the new requirements but concluded that the cost of converting older vehicles would be disproportionate to their remaining life. The Government are therefore implementing the European directive for vehicles registered from this date.

We are in the process of transposing, the retro-fit directive for existing heavy goods vehicles. This will be enforced from 31 March 2009.

Lorries: Accidents

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign-registered lorries on roads in the UK resulted in (i) fatalities and (ii) injuries in each year since 1997. [202137]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving *(a)* British Heavy Goods Vehicles and *(b)* foreign registered Heavy Goods Vehicles in Great Britain resulting in fatalities and injuries are:

Number of accidents

	British HGV[1]		*Foreign registered HGV*[1]	
	Fatalities	*Injuries*[2]	*Fatalities*	*Injuries*[2]
2005	407	9,428	27	1,071
2006	365	9,146	31	1,010

[1] HGV = Heavy Goods Vehicle over 3.5 tonnes maximum permissible weight gross vehicle weight (gvw).
[2] Injury = serious and slight injury.
Note:
Where there are accidents involving both British and foreign registered vehicles, they will appear in each of their categories.

Prior to 2005, it was not possible to identify foreign registered Heavy Goods Vehicles separately.

M180

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the M180 was closed on 31 March 2008; on whose authority the closure took place; and what guidance she issues on the appropriate action to be taken in closing motorways following an incident. [201289]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The M180 was closed on 31 March 2008 between junctions 2 and 1 both westbound and eastbound from 9.20 am to 4.36 pm following a fatal accident involving five vehicles.

The M180 was closed by South Yorkshire Police to enable them to manage the incident safely and to facilitate their investigation into the incident.

The Highways Agency's Traffic Officer Service works closely with local police forces when dealing with these incidents, applying the principles set out in the national guidance framework document that was signed by both the Highways Agency and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) when the Traffic Officer Service was established. The decision as to whether a motorway should be closed is, however, a local one, taking into account factors such as the particular circumstances of the incident, traffic conditions, the safety of the travelling public and the safety of the emergency service personnel involved in dealing with the incident.

Public Transport: Concessions

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to provide free local travel to those with long-term mental health conditions. [200673]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Transport Act 2000 (or for those resident in London, the Greater London Authority Act 1999) makes provision for statutory concessionary travel to a wide range of disabled people. Categories of disability were drawn up following representation from local government and support from the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. The people eligible are as follows:

any person who:

is blind or partially sighted;

is profoundly or severely deaf;

is without speech;

has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to walk;

does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms;

has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning;

would, if he/she applied for a grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his/her application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

Local authorities are free to offer their residents discretionary concessions over and above the statutory minimum at their own expense. This can include offering concessionary travel to other categories of people, such as those with mental health problems.

We have no plans at present to change the eligibility criteria for statutory concessionary bus travel to include people with long-term mental health conditions.

Radio: Highways Agency

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency will spend on radio broadcasting in 2008-09; for what reason such allocations have been made; and if she will make a statement. [201291]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Traffic Radio project value for 2008-09 is £2.945 million.

The Highways Agency broadcast service, Traffic Radio, has been delivered in line with ministerial commitments and Highways Agency business targets to supply information services to the public.

Alongside its other information services, the aim of Traffic Radio is to supply high quality information to the public, before they travel. This allows them to make an informed decision on when or if to travel and to further consider mode of transport or route. Alerting road users to potential delays or incidents before they set out will help them to avoid those delays, thereby reducing the impact of that delay for all road users.

Traffic Radio is delivered on Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) and the internet to the public in a constant loop allowing listeners to obtain the information, at a time convenient to them. This allows them to make a considered journey choice before setting out.

The business case for the service predicted a positive benefit to the public through reduced congestion. Further benefits are expected with the expansion of DAB and internet radio both at the home and in car.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 25 and *(c)* over 25 years died in road accidents in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [202232]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is given in the following table:

Number of fatalities by age group resulting from personal injury road accidents in Lancashire and England : 2002-06

	Casualty age							
	Lancashire excl. Blackburn and Blackpool				England			
	0 to 15	16 to 25	26 +	Total[1]	0 to 15	16 to 25	26 +	Total[1]
2002	4	19	30	53	156	801	1,992	2,980
2003	7	22	46	75	141	807	2,039	3,004
2004	4	18	32	54	145	775	1,776	2,714
2005	4	17	62	83	123	762	1,841	2,735
2006	4	21	32	57	134	799	1,753	2,695

[1] Includes missing ages.

Roads: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the damage caused to the highway network in the East Riding of Yorkshire as a result of flooding in 2007; and what additional sum is to be paid to the East Riding of Yorkshire council to compensate for the damage. [201290]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In January 2008 East Riding of Yorkshire council submitted a claim to my Department for funding of £6.095 million to repair damage to their roads caused by flooding in 2007. The authority received an interim settlement in March in respect of £2.25 million. This covered £1.087 million funding to the authority to cover the costs identified and supported by evidence and a local contribution of £1.153 million representing 15 per cent. of their 2007-08 Local Transport Plan capital highway maintenance allocation.

Discussions have been held with the authority regarding the evidence they need to provide to support the remaining £3.845 million costs in their claim. The Department will consider whether further funding should be paid to the authority in the light of further evidence.

Schools: Transport

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will extend the requirement to wear seat belts to include buses used to transport pupils to school in vehicles hired from or operated by bus companies and local authorities. [202095]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is presently considering responses to its consultation on regulations to require children under 14 years of age to use seat belts in buses and coaches where they are fitted. There are no plans for legislation to require that all vehicles used for school transport must have seat belts fitted—that can already be achieved by school authorities for contracted vehicles.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Severn Bridges Act 1992 to allow tolls for Severn Bridge crossings to be paid by credit and debit cards. [201341]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* We want it to be as convenient as possible for people to pay tolls at the Severn Crossing. But there are some practical obstacles to this and a working group has been set up to look at solving these.

Further consideration will be given once the working group have submitted their findings and recommendations. This is expected to be by early autumn.

Traffic Commissioners: Redundancy

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic commissioners were dismissed in each of the last 30 years. [202218]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We do not have this information for the period before 1990. Since 1990 no traffic commissioners have been dismissed.

Transport: EU Action

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Trans-European transport networks will cost; and what the UK's contribution will be. [200525]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 2007 TEN Financing Regulation estimates the cost of completing the Trans-European transport network between 2007 and 2020 will be €600 billion. This includes investment from both public and private sources, as well as public-private partnerships.

There is no specific UK contribution to the programme. The UK makes its contributions to the EC budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes within it.

Transport: Finance

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that regional transport funding is distributed on an equitable basis. [195370]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to his question of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 448W.

We have already increased investment in transport in all regions. By 2008, transport spending will be 80 per cent. higher in real terms than in 1997, and we will continue to take account of the needs of all regions in making investment decisions.

The introduction of regional funding allocations has allowed regions to align these increased funding levels to their key priorities and needs, delivering the best outcome for each region.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Scheme: Marketing

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department is doing to publicise Access to Work. [200783]

Mr. Timms: The Access to Work national delivery team is currently implementing an internal marketing strategy to ensure that all Jobcentre staff involved with disabled customers are fully briefed on the Access to Work programme. This will cover the aims of the programme, eligibility criteria and the application process.

The programme is also being promoted through presentations and exhibitions, and through close working partnerships developed with the major disability groups such as the Royal National Institute for Blind people, Royal National Institute for Deaf people and MIND.

Articles have appeared in external publications such as 'Disability Wales' and the National Spinal Association magazine illustrating how Access to Work can practically support disabled people into paid employment. Additionally, Jobcentre Plus includes information on Access to Work in internally produced magazines such as 'Inspire'. This magazine, which is targeted at job seekers, is available, along with other leaflets on Access to Work, in all Jobcentre Plus offices. The magazine 'Engage', also produced by Jobcentre Plus and aimed at employers, regularly carries information about Access to Work, along with other Jobcentre Plus services.

Information about Access to Work is available on the Jobcentre Plus and Directgov websites. Directgov as a source of information about Jobcentre Plus services for disabled people is widely publicised, for example, in the latest issue of 'Ability Needs' magazine. Disability employment advisers, who are often the gateway to Access to Work, are regularly in contact with small to medium sized employers locally and will raise awareness of Access to Work when appropriate.

Apprentices: Construction

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of applications for apprenticeships in the construction industry in each year since 1997; and how many places were available in each of those years. [201038]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Information about the number of people applying for apprenticeships is not collected or held centrally. Information about the number of people starting apprenticeships in the construction industry is provided in the following table. Figures for years prior to 2002-03 are not available.

Construction apprenticeships starts 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Number
2002-03	23,706
2003-04	15,229
2004-05	18,742
2005-06	15,731
2006-07	21,004

Notes:
1. Includes all age groups and both apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships.
2. Figures include engineering construction and construction; framework codes 107 and 116.

Source:
Work Based Learning Individualised Learner Record.

Departmental Leaflets

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of his Department's public information leaflets are available online on *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* the Directgov website. [195772]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions public information leaflets are mainly published through its agencies' websites (Jobcentre Plus, Child Support Agency and The Pension Service) and the DWP website links to these. Of the 66 Public Information leaflets produced by the Department 57 are currently available. A further nine are due to be published shortly and these will replace other leaflets currently on the sites.

Directgov does not hold leaflets on its site but incorporates information into its core pages or has external links to customer leaflets and information stored on other websites—DWP, Inland Revenue, Jobcentre Plus, Veterans Agency, HMRC, CSA, Department of Health, Pensions Service et al. Directgov also links to welsh versions of leaflets with links to English versions of leaflets where the Welsh version is not available.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of his Department's work force were employed in each region in each year since 2004. [200465]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of how many and what proportion of the Department's work force was employed in each region in each year ending 31 March, since 31 March 2004 is set out in the following tables:

Period ending March 2004	*Total FTE[1]*	*Proportion of Department (percentage)*
East midlands	6,415	4.9
East of England	6,715	5.2
London	13,789	11
North-east	13,600	10.5

Period ending March 2004	Total FTE[1]	Proportion of Department (percentage)
North-west	25,825	19.9
Scotland	14,334	11.1
South-east	8,626	6.7
South-west	8,012	6.2
Wales	7,313	5.6
West midlands	11,004	8.5
Yorkshire and Humberside	13,989	10.8
Total	129,624	

[1]FTE figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding

Period ending March 2005	Total FTE[1]	Proportion of Department (percentage)
East midlands	5,960	5
East of England	6,162	5.1
London	12,807	11
North-east	12,691	10.5
North-west	23,808	19.8
Scotland	13,278	11
South-east	7,835	6.5
South-west	7,448	6.2
Wales	7,014	5.8
West midlands	10,152	8.4
Yorkshire and Humberside	13,138	10.9
Total	120,292	

[1]FTE figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding

Period ending March 2006	Total FTE[1]	Proportion of Department (percentage)
East midlands	5,700	5
East of England	5,537	4.8
London	11,687	10
North-east	12,304	10.7
North-west	23,341	20.3
Scotland	12,718	11.1
South-east	7,229	6.3
South-west	7,438	6.5
Wales	6,630	5.8
West midlands	9,818	8.6
Yorkshire and Humberside	12,366	10.8
Total	114,767	

[1]FTE figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding

Period ending March 2007	Total FTE[1]	Proportion of Department (percentage)
East midlands	5,393	5
East of England	5,022	4.6
London	10,642	10
North-east	11,604	10.7
North-west	22,762	21
Scotland	11,697	10.8
South-east	6,943	6.4
South-west	7,102	6.5
Wales	6,276	5.8
West midlands	9,418	8.7
Yorkshire and Humberside	11,614	10.7
Total	108,472	

[1]FTE figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding

Period ending March 2008	Total FTE[1]	Proportion of Department (percentage)
East midlands	5,211	5.1
East of England	4,787	4.7
London	10,195	10
North-east	11,165	10.9
North-west	20,931	20.4
Scotland	11,148	10.9
South-east	6,507	6.4
South-west	6,091	6
Wales	6,298	6.2
West midlands	9,110	8.9
Yorkshire and Humberside	10,927	10.7
Total	102,371	

[1]FTE figures and percentages may not sum due to rounding

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many public consultations were held by his Department in each of the last three years; and how many respondents took part in each consultation. [198636]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of public consultations conducted by the Department for Work and Pensions in the last three years has been as follows:

	Consultations launched
2005-06	22
2006-07	18
2007-08	23

Providing a full answer to the second part of the question could be done only at disproportionate cost. The number of responses to our consultations questions varies greatly. For example, we received over 450 formal written submissions to our recent Welfare Reform Green Paper consultation, but this represents only a small part of the picture, because in addition we received over 2,000 posts in two internet-based discussion forums, and a large amount of face-to-face input at a range of different meetings. Whereas, for our more specialist, and often limited, consultations in the Private Pensions area typically between 50 and 100 responses are received.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time posts in his Department were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in each of the last three years. [200670]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number of full-time posts filled on a temporary basis, for a period in excess of six months, by the Department for Work and Pensions for each of the last three years ending 31 March is set out in the following table.

Year end	*Temporary staff (full-time equivalent)*
31 March 2006	1,532
31 March 2007	561
31 March 2008	477

For years ending 31 March 2006 and 2007, the figures include all temporary staff. For the year ending 31 March 2008, members of staff with a fixed term contract in excess of 12 months have been excluded in line with revised Office of National Statistics (ONS) definitions.

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the levels of public awareness of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as measured by the disability module of the Office of National Statistics Omnibus Survey. [200448]

Mrs. McGuire: Using the most up to date data available from the Office for National Statistics Omnibus Survey for between January and September 2007, 72.3 per cent. of the general population were aware of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets his Department has set in relation to the employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199054]

Mrs. McGuire: The "10 Point Plan for a Diverse Civil Service" published in November 2005 set a target that 3.2 per cent. of senior civil service (SCS) posts were to be filled by disabled people by April 2008. In line with all civil service Departments DWP produced its own plan and targets for the period from 2005 to 2008. As well as its higher target for the SCS, the Department also set targets for the grades below the SCS. The March 2008 DWP targets and figures are in the following table:

DWP staff with disabilities March 2008 figures

Grade	*March 2008*	*DWP 2008 targets*	*Percentage Civil service 2008 target*
SCS	2.8	6.0	3.2
G/G6-F/G7-E/SEO	4.0	4.0	—
D/HEO-C/EO	6.5	7.0	—
B/AO-A/AA	4.5	6.0	—
All DWP	5.3	n/a	—

The figures are based on the proportion of staff who have voluntarily declared themselves as being disabled. However, we are aware that not all disabled staff declare their disability for departmental records, and the true figure may be higher than the figures shown. For example, the 2008 DWP Staff Survey (which is completed anonymously), showed that 13.6 per cent. of respondents considered themselves to have a long standing health condition or disability.

The roll out of a new computer system has meant a more accurate record of the numbers of disabled people working within the Department who made a declaration. As we rolled out the new system we asked each member of staff to check the personal information we held about them and to declare whether they considered themselves to be disabled. A further recent communications exercise has also emphasised the importance of individuals providing this information, and we will be repeating the request for people to declare their status later this year.

Although we have achieved good levels of diversity across the Department, including those for disabled people, we aim to improve this position and details of actions are in Department for Work and Pensions Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes 2008-11.

The Cabinet Office is currently drawing up a new diversity strategy that will build on the achievements and lessons learnt from the 10 Point Plan. Once this has been agreed the Department will be setting further targets to 2011 and the strategy for achieving them.

Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions staff employed by his Department defrauded his Department in the last 10 years.[1] [200839]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was created in April 2001 and information has been held centrally only from April 2003. To try to obtain information for earlier years would incur a disproportionate cost. Figures are not yet available for 2007-08.

Information is not available in the exact format requested but the figures shown in the following table show the number of instances of attempted or actual fraud where the investigation was completed in the year stated, together with the average number of staff in post in each year. The figures relate to all the benefits administered by DWP, theft of assets and financial irregularities:

	Employee fraud against the benefits system	*Other fraud by employees*	*Staff in post*
2003-04	23	78	130,786
2004-05	4	44	126,988
2005-06	52	99	119,972
2006-07	51	75	114,500

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* workless couples and *(b)* workless lone parents claiming housing benefit in the last period for which figures are available. [199253]

1. *[Official Report, 3 June 2008, Vol. 476, c. 9MC.]*

Mr. Plaskitt: There were 430,000 workless couples and 670,000 workless lone parents in receipt of housing benefit. These represented 38 per cent. of workless couples and 78 per cent. of workless lone parents.

These estimates have been derived from information in the Family Resources Survey 2005-06.

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of those removed from incapacity benefit by 2015 who will *(a)* return to work, *(b)* retire and *(c)* move on to other benefits. [198776]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available. We do not produce off-flow forecasts broken down by reason.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 780W, on social security benefits, how many people were claiming incapacity benefit in each year since 1998, broken down by country. [199917]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not available prior to 2007. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Assessments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract signed with ATOS Origin to provide medical assessments for incapacity benefit claimants. [200191]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* A copy of the medical services contract, excluding those paragraphs which are considered commercially sensitive, has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Incapacity Benefit: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether those claiming employment and support allowance will be included in incapacity benefit figures when assessing performance against the target to reduce the number on incapacity benefit by 2015. [198775]

Mrs. McGuire: Our goal is to reduce the combined employment and support allowance and incapacity benefits caseload by 1 million over a decade, starting from 2.74 million incapacity benefits claimants in May 2005.

As such the combined total of those claiming employment and support allowance and those claiming incapacity benefits will be used to measure our progress towards this aim.

Incapacity Benefits: Medical Examinations

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that employment and support allowance assessments take account of the characteristics of different health conditions, with particular reference to the fluctuations inherent in the symptomatic severity of myalgic encephalopathy; and if he will make a statement. [201834]

Mr. Timms: The new Work Capability Assessment for Employment and Support Allowance will be a fair, robust and accurate assessment of limited capability for work which takes account of all conditions, including those that are long term and that fluctuate such as myalgic encephalopathy.

The Work Capability Assessment is not a snapshot of a person's condition on the day of the assessment. In assessing whether a person can carry out any given activity, health care professionals must take into account the person's condition over a reasonable period of time. They must take into account the effects of symptoms such as pain and fatigue. In this way the Work Capability Assessment takes account of the effects of fluctuating conditions.

If there is a change in a person's disabling condition, there will be a provision to refer the person to an approved healthcare professional so that we can determine afresh whether or not the person has limited capability for work, or limited capability for work-related activity.

Industrial Injuries: Construction

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work-related *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries occurred in the construction industry in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [202309]

Mrs. McGuire: Information currently available on work-related deaths and injuries in the construction industry in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is shown in the following table:

Injuries in construction (SIC 45) 2005-06 to 2006-07[1] by severity of injury and employment status, as reported under RIDDOR 95[2] regulations

Severity	*Employment Status*	*2005/06*	*2006/07[1]*	*2007/08[3, 4]*
Fatal	Employee	43	50	46
	Self employed	17	27	11
	Member of the public	4	7	3
	Total	64	84	60
Major	Employee	3,706	3711	[5]n/a
	Self employed	766	719	[5]n/a
	Total	4,472	4,430	[5]n/a

Injuries in construction (SIC 45) 2005-06 to 2006-07[1] by severity of injury and employment status, as reported under RIDDOR 95[2] regulations

Severity	*Employment Status*	*2005/06*	*2006/07[1]*	*2007/08[3, 4]*
Over-3-day	Employee	7,555	7,108	[5]n/a
	Self Employed	829	749	[5]n/a
	Total	8,384	7,857	[5]n/a
Non-fatal	Member of the public	200	187	5n/a
	Total	200	187	n/a (b)

[1] Provisional.
[2] RIDDOR.—Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.
[3] 1 April to 31 December 2007.
[4] 2007-08 figures based on the first nine months. These figures are unvalidated at this stage, so final details may change.
[5] Unvalidated non-fatal injury figures for 1 April to 31 December 2007 are available on HSE's website. The figures do not include data from all enforcing authorities, so are not comparable with previously-published figures.

Very preliminary indications for 2007-08 are that the number of fatal accidents to workers in the construction industry dropped by around 10 per cent. from the level of 2006-07.

Jobcentre Plus

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what Jobcentre Plus offices there are in each region; [198771]

(2) how many Jobcentre and Jobcentre Plus offices there were in each year since 1997. [198780]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 28 April 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what Jobcentre Plus offices there are in each Region and how many Jobcentre and Jobcentre Plus offices there were in each year since 1997. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Jobcentre Plus estate comprises not only Jobcentres, but also Benefit Delivery Centres, Contact Centres, Regional Offices and a number of Medical Examination Centres. The table below shows the total number of Jobcentre Plus offices in each Jobcentre Plus region in England and the countries of Scotland and Wales as at 1 April 2008.

Region	*Offices*
East of England	80
East Midlands	67
London	102
North East	52
North West	136
Scotland	117
South East	99
South West	99
Wales	85
West Midlands	90
Yorkshire and the Humber	85
Total England and Wales	1,012

I am only able to provide information on the number of Jobcentre and Jobcentre Plus offices in our network from April 2002, when Jobcentre Plus was created by the merger of the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency.

The transformation of the inherited estate of around 1,500 offices is illustrated in the following table. The creation of the modern network of Jobcentre Plus offices involved the closure and disposal of a number of less suitable offices. The transformed Jobcentre Plus offices are the high street network of modern, open plan integrated offices and the non transformed Jobcentres are the original Jobcentres, which did not provide the integrated jobseeker and benefit administration service.

Date	*Total number of transformed Jobcentre Plus offices*	*Remaining number of non transformed Jobcentres*
31 March 2003	211	1272
30 April 2004	437	935
31 May 2005	551	691
31 March 2006	775	251
31 March 2007	854	44
2 April 2008	862	10

Poverty: Disabled

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of efforts to tackle disability poverty to meeting child poverty reduction targets. [200404]

Mrs. McGuire: It is not possible to isolate the effect of policies specifically designed to address poverty amongst disabled people (such as support to help disabled people into work and the disability elements of the child tax credit and working tax credit), as they are closely linked with other policies affecting the working age population (such as the tax credit system as a whole and the national minimum wage).

However, the Department's analysis has demonstrated that around half of the reduction in child poverty as measured by relative low income (300,000 children) has occurred among children living in families with a disabled adult and/or a disabled child.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made towards meeting his Department's Public Service Agreement on reducing fraud and error in income support, jobseeker's allowance and housing benefit. [200462]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department's estimates of our progress against Public Service Agreement 10 on reducing fraud and error in the benefits system are published in a series of reports called "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System". The most recent report, "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System October 2005 to September 2006" was published in December 2007; a copy has been placed in the Library.

The report can also be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fem/fem_oct05_sep06.pdf

DEFENCE

Military Medical Policy

11. **Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms his Department has in place to use lessons learned from operational theatres in the development of military medical policy. [201536]

Derek Twigg: Military medical policy is continually developing in the light of evidence emerging from the front-line experiences of our deployed medical personnel and coalition allies, and we work closely with the NHS to feed these into clinical practice. For example the "Major Trauma Audit for Clinical Effectiveness" is a process of continuous clinical audit to enable quality improvement; and our weekly "Joint Theatre Clinical Case Conferences" share experience and expertise between clinicians deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and experts in the UK.

21. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to maintain the level of medical care provided to armed forces personnel in theatres of operation. [201547]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Medical Services have met all their operational commitments and will continue to do so. We have initiatives in hand to recruit into shortfall specialties and, with Department of Health support, encourage volunteering for the medical Reserves. The high standard of life-saving treatment provided in the field is matched by the clinical care provided for those casualties evacuated back to the UK, both at Selly Oak hospital in Birmingham and in MOD's own facilities such as the rehabilitation centre at Headley Court.

Injured Service Personnel: Compensation

12. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on levels of compensation payments to injured service personnel. [201537]

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what compensation payments may be made to injured service personnel; and if he will make a statement. [201540]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett).

Military Inquests

13. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to assist the families of service personnel killed on active service to be represented at inquests. [201539]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We place the highest priority on supporting the families of those who have given their lives in the service of their country. We try to help bereaved families through the difficult experience of a coroner's inquest. Due to the nature of inquest proceedings, assistance under the legal aid scheme, overseen by the Ministry of Justice, is available only in exceptional circumstances.

17. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on reducing the number of pending military inquests. [201543]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Falkirk (Mr. Joyce).

Service Accommodation

15. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the standards of service accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [201541]

Derek Twigg: Much service living accommodation is already of a high standard, but some remains below the standard that our service personnel and their families deserve. For this reason, we continue to invest heavily in all types of accommodation with a further £8 billion planned over the next decade, including over £3 billion on new or upgraded accommodation and over £2 billion on refurbishment and maintenance.

In the past seven years we have upgraded some 13,000 family properties. Since 2003, we have delivered some 20,000 new or improved Single Living bed-spaces with 30,000 more planned by 2013.

Patrol and Reconnaissance Vehicles

16. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the use of mine and explosive protective patrol and reconnaissance vehicles in theatre. [201542]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We ensure that commanders in operational theatres have a flexible and balanced vehicle fleet that provides the range of capabilities needed. Protected patrol vehicles form part of that approach,

although the protection afforded by appropriate operational tactics and procedures is also important in the protection of our armed forces.

We continue to invest heavily in protected mobility to support our forces both in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the procurement of Vector, Mastiff, M-WMIK and Ridgback vehicles.

Afghanistan

18. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what additional commitments were made by NATO members to the mission in Afghanistan at the recent NATO summit; and if he will make a statement. [201544]

Des Browne: At NATO's Bucharest Summit, President Sarkozy confirmed the deployment of an additional battalion of French troops to the east of Afghanistan. This enabled President Bush to announce the movement of a substantial US force from the east to Kandahar in the south. A number of other allies, including Poland, Romania and Slovakia also announced increased contributions. Canada confirmed that it would remain in Kandahar until 2011.

22. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the effects of the application of UN Security Council resolution 1325 in Afghanistan. [201548]

Des Browne: The Government have made no formal assessment of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Afghanistan. Nonetheless, the UK is keen to fulfil its commitment under this resolution to protect the rights of women and girls in areas suffering conflict, and to incorporate their perspectives in conflict resolution and peacekeeping planning.

To this end we fund various programmes, including a five-year Women's Empowerment programme that began in 2005, implemented by the NGO Womankind. This initiative focuses on promoting women's equal participation in governance and building awareness of women's rights among civil society and policy makers.

Ballistic Missile Defence System

19. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with NATO counterparts on the ballistic missile defence system. [201545]

Des Browne: The issue of ballistic missile defence is discussed regularly at ministerial level in NATO.

Iraq

20. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future role of British forces in Iraq. [201546]

23. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the future deployment of British forces in Iraq. [201549]

24. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the future role of British forces in Iraq. [201550]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper).

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 364W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, whether the balance of helicopter force levels has been decided; and whether any Merlin helicopters will be deployed in Afghanistan. [195167]

Des Browne: The Merlin fleet will remain committed to southern Iraq for the foreseeable future. As always, we keep force levels and structures under regular review.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the command relationship between British Forces and elements of the US 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit operating in Helmand Province will be. [200948]

Des Browne: Both Task Force Helmand and the US 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit are under the control of the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of attacks made by *(a)* Taliban and *(b)* Al-Qaeda forces in Afghanistan occurred in Helmand province in 2007. [200960]

Des Browne: This information is not held in the format requested.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many weapons caches have been found in Helmand province in each year since 2006. [200961]

Des Browne: In 2006, security forces operating in Helmand province discovered four weapons caches, and in 2007, 24 were found. Up to 30 January 2008, the latest date for which data have been recorded this year, one cache had been found.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 450W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, whether the balance of the UK helicopter force levels across theatre, including the deployment of Merlin helicopters to Afghanistan, has been decided. [201415]

Des Browne: The Merlin fleet will remain committed to southern Iraq for the foreseeable future. As always, we keep force levels and structures under regular review.

Air Force: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of pilots in the RAF is for each type of aircraft. [200939]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on pilot numbers for each type of aircraft is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In 2006 the projected requirement for RAF pilots for the end of Financial Year 2007-08 was 2,268. The total number of RAF pilots as at 1 March 2008 was 2,080. Reliable figures for a more recent estimate are unavailable following the phased implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

Armed Forces: Divorce

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the divorce rate among service personnel was in each year since 1997, broken down by service; and how many divorces involving a member of the armed services were recorded in each year. [200942]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows annual divorce rates and number of divorces for Army and RAF personnel for each year since 1997. Naval service data are not available as the naval service groups 'Separated', 'Divorced' and 'Widowed' together.

Divorces within the Army and RAF, and rate as a percentage of average married strength: 1997 to 2006

	Army[2]		RAF	
	Number	Rate (percentage)	Number	Rate (percentage)
1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998	n/a	n/a	610	1.6
1999	1,120	2.1	570	1.6
2000	1,180	2.3	640	1.8
2001	1,130	2.2	620	1.8
2002	1,310	2.6	590	1.8
2003	1,210	2.4	520	1.7
2004	1,200	2.4	580	1.9
2005	1,040	2.1	570	1.9
2006[1]	930	1.9	n/a	n/a

n/a = not available

[1] Figures for 2006 are for the most recently available 12 months which cover the period up to 1 December 2006.

[2] For the years 1999, 2000 and 2001, annulments are excluded from the calculations for divorce rates, as the information was not available, however the remaining years do include annulments in their calculation.

Figures are for UK Regular Forces, and therefore exclude Gurkhas, full-time Reserve Service personnel, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. Figures are for trained and untrained personnel excluding officer designates.

Rates are calculated as a percentage of the average married strength during the calendar years. The term 'divorce' includes 'decree absolute' and 'marriage annulled'. It excludes 'decree nisi' and individuals who are separated.

Figures after 1 December 2006 are unavailable following the phased implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

To collect and collate marital status from units, in order to produce figures for divorce rates, could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel returning to the UK from action abroad have required medical treatment in each of the last 60 months. [200924]

Derek Twigg: We do not collect statistics in the form requested, but we publish a range of casualty statistics, which are updated fortnightly, on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/defenceinternet/factsheets/operations factsheets/operationsinafghanistanbritishcasualties. htm_for_Afghanistan

and

http://www.mod.uk/defenceinternet/factsheets/operations factsheets/operationsiniraqbritishcasualties.htm_for_Iraq

Armed Forces: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid in each year for improvements and modernisation of residential dwellings since Annington Homes acquired the former Ministry of Defence housing stock. [199228]

Derek Twigg: In Financial Year 2007-08 we spent some £32 million on Service Family Accommodation (SFA) as part of life-cycle maintenance activity (for example replacing bathrooms, kitchens or boilers) in addition to some £18 million spent on upgrades.

The former Defence Housing Executive (DHE) was responsible for the maintenance and new build of housing in Great Britain until 2004 after which the responsibility passed to Defence Estates (DE).

Details of expenditure on upgrading SFA to SlfC are available only from Financial Year 2001-02 when DHE published its first Agency accounts. Expenditure was as follows:

Financial Year	£ million
2001-02	25.3
2002-03	25.5
2003-04	33.5
2004-05	18.1
2005-06	32.4
2006-07	16.4

The maintenance and investment in Service Families Accommodation overseas and in Northern Ireland is carried out by the respective budget holders. It is therefore held separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

During the period from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2008 the Department upgraded over 15,000 houses in Great Britain to SlfC.

Armed Forces: Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to paragraph four of the Defence Medical Services Department's policy letter of 20 January 2006 entitled "The use of influenza vaccines and anti-virals

in the event of an influenza pandemic" , reference DMSD/13/1/4 if he will reassess the assumption on the proportion of the armed forces who may be affected during the course of a pandemic and if he will make a statement. [196546]

Derek Twigg: MOD pandemic influenza planning assumptions on overall clinical attack rates are based on modelling provided by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), which underpin the National Planning Framework. In 2006 this accorded with the national plan that 25 to 33 per cent. of the armed forces overall may be affected during the course of a pandemic. However, in line with the revised National Planning Framework issued in 2007, which raised the upper potential impact to 50 per cent., our planning is being adjusted to reflect this higher potential clinical attack rate.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual voluntary outflow rate for (i) officers and (ii) other ranks in each service was in the latest period for which figures are available. [200937]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department does not set targets for the maximum number of people that leave early (Voluntary Outflow).

Voluntary exit rates broken down by officers and other ranks can be found in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 5—Trained Outflow to Civil Life. Monthly figures show the number of personnel who have outflowed in the previous 12 month period. TSP 5 is published monthly. The most recent publication presents outflow for the 12 months to February 2008 and can be found at

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp5/tsp5tab5.html

Copies of TSP 5 are available in the Library of the House and are also at

www.dasa.mod.uk

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were employed by each of the armed forces in the last year for which records are available. [201005]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the number of service personnel employed by each of the armed forces is published in Tri-Service Publication 1, "Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces" (TSP 1). Copies are available in the Library of the House and also at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp1/gender.html

The latest available data published in TSP 1 is as at 1 March 2008. TSP 1 is a monthly publication, previous copies of which can be found at www.dasa.mod.uk. The next edition of TSP 1 is due to be released on 22 May 2008 and this will contain figures as at 1 April 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of unit welfare officers is. [201019]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1646W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on visits by armed forces personnel to schools. [196605]

Derek Twigg: We welcome the opportunity to visit schools. Armed forces personnel do visit schools to raise awareness and understanding and help with youth work, e.g. sports and engineering projects. Any visit will be at the invitation of a school and the school will work with the armed forces to determine what information will be provided to young people. This will include information on careers in the services as well as providing general information to make students aware of the work of the MOD and armed forces worldwide.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time teachers were employed by Service Children's Education at the latest date for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the full-time requirement. [199492]

Derek Twigg: As at the 1 April 2008, Service Children's Education (SCE) employed 775 full-time teachers and 37 part-time teachers

The estimated teacher establishment for the academic year 2008/09 is 737 full-time teachers and 37 part-time teachers, with the bulk of these reductions reflecting the closure of Osnabrück Station in Germany during 2008-09.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what specialist training in the immediate management of traumatic injuries and Major Incident Medical Management and Support medical officers on the Army's Entry Officer course receive. [200945]

Derek Twigg: All Army medical officers undergo the post graduate medical officers course which is delivered by the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine. It includes a full major incident medical management and support course, followed by an examination which has to be passed. The remainder of the course covers a broad range of topics specific to military medicine, with a specific focus on time at general duties. All military medical officers also undertake four months accident and emergency experience during training.

Those students notified for deployment on operations within three months of the course end, undertake the battlefield advanced trauma life support course. Those scheduled to deploy at a later date undertake this training from within their units.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Role 1 medical officers deployed on operations had received refresher training in the management of trauma at the latest date for which figures are available. [200946]

Derek Twigg: 100 per cent. in all three services as of 21 April 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours of pre-deployment training personnel are required to complete before deployment to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [201028]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is a mandatory 'pre-deployment course', which is run separately by each service and is followed up by role-specific orientation training in theatre. Represented in days, the mandatory course duration is as follows:

	Number of days
Royal Navy	10
Army and Royal Marines	4
RAF	6
Civilians	3

Pre-deployment courses differ between the services due to differing roles undertaken and theatre specific relevance of other training undertaken. Pre-deployment training is very much longer than these service specific pre-deployment courses.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training personnel serving in the Queen's Colour Squadron received prior to their deployment to Afghanistan in spring 2008. [201029]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Queen's Colour Squadron is not currently committed to squadron-level operations in Afghanistan. However, a small number of its personnel have been deployed on force-protection duties there since last October. Prior to their deployment, personnel undertook an intensive training package designed specifically for their role in Afghanistan. The package included briefings, practical training and an intensive series of live firing exercises.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training in Arctic flying conditions was provided to armed forces helicopter pilots in 2007. [201136]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Arctic flying training for armed forces helicopter pilots takes place on an annual basis at the Joint Helicopter Command Clockwork facility at Royal Norwegian Air Force Base Bardufoss, which provides ground and air training for all rotary wing and support units. The flying syllabus covers day and night flying sorties, mountain flying and other sorties pertinent to aircraft type and role.

For the winter training period of 2007, the units receiving this training were:

elements of the Commando Helicopter Force,
elements of 33 Squadron Royal Air Force and
elements of 4 Regiment Army Air Corps.

Army: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* shortest and *(b)* average number of months between the completion of Phase 2 training and the deployment of personnel in the Army was for the latest period for which figures are available. [200938]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All soldiers are deployed or 'posted' directly to their parent unit upon completion of Phase 2 training. Data on time between completion of Phase 2 training and deployment on a operational tour is not readily available.

Departmental Credit Cards

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions a government procurement card was used by his departmental officials and by service personnel in each of the last five years; how much was spent via such cards in each such year; and what effect on administrative costs the use of such cards is estimated to have had since they came into operation. [200542]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total expenditure and total number of transactions on the Government Procurement Cards (GPC) held by departmental officials and service personnel over the last five years is detailed as follows:

	Expenditure (£)	*Transactions*
2007-08	231,103,509	819,903
2006-07	218,631,506	754,329
2005-06	202,499,078	714,471
2004-05	168,594,451	627,006
2003-04	100,438,586	401,980

Since its implementation in the MOD, the GPC has achieved total process and administration cost savings of £101,894,044, based on the NAO savings figure of £28 per transaction. A breakdown of this is shown in the following table:

	Transactions	*Savings (£)*
2007-08	819,903	22,957,284
2006-07	754,329	21,121,212
2005-06	714,471	20,005,188
2004-05	627,006	17,556,168
2003-04	401,980	11,255,440
2002-03	227,725	6,376,300
2001-02	61,296	1,716,288
2000-01	30,155	844,340
1999-2000	2,208	61,824
Total	3,639,073	101,894,044

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's financial *(a)* losses and *(b)* special payments for 2007-08 were. [200935]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is intended for future publication in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts, which we plan to lay before the House in July.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time posts were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in his Department in each of the last three years. [200660]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested. However, I am able to provide the monthly average of the number of people filling a post on a temporary basis for Financial Year 2006-07 and for 2007-08 which was 2,581 and 2,867 respectively. These numbers do not include temporary or agency staff filling vacancies nor do they distinguish between full-time and part-time posts. They also exclude staff in Trading Funds.

Devonport Dockyard

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make final decisions on the baseporting of frigates and submarines at Devonport Naval Base. [201994]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 113W, on the baseporting of ships at Devonport. The position applies equally to frigates and submarines.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Typhoon Eurofighters are fully operational and in service with the Royal Air Force. [200538]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As of 21 April 2008, there are 49 Typhoon aircraft in service with the RAF, of which 34 aircraft are fully operational for daily tasking and 15 in capability upgrade, flight test activities and scheduled maintenance.

Fleet Air Arm

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Fleet Air Arm personnel were *(a)* qualified and *(b)* serving as fighter pilots at the latest date for which figures are available. [200302]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 21 April 2008 the number of qualified Fleet Air Arm personnel who hold the post award of the flying badge is 63.

The number of fast jet pilots employed on operations or direct support to them is 36.

Future Large Aircraft: Procurement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the A400M aircraft ordered by his Department will have an explosive suppressive foam capability to respond to fuel tank explosions. [198842]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* Explosion suppressant foam is one of several fuel tank inerting systems available to prevent fuel tank explosion. An alternative inerting system is the on board inert gas generation system (OBIGGS), such as that fitted as standard to C-17s.

All but one of our A400M aircraft will, during manufacture, will be fitted with the necessary equipment to enable fuel tank inerting to be installed. The one exception to this is an early development aircraft which is already under construction and cannot be fitted with the enabling pipework for fuel tank inerting during its production. We are currently looking at ways to address this shortfall.

Iran: Territorial Waters

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will *(a)* prepare and *(b)* place in the Library a commentary on the documents released to *The Times* newspaper under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the Iranian seizure of personnel from the crew of HMS Cornwall. [201797]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* Yes.

Iraq: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it costs to transport one *(a)* Mastiff and *(b)* Bulldog armoured vehicle from the UK to (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [201021]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cost of transporting heavy equipment varies considerably according to the method employed. The means of transportation is decided on a number of criteria, primarily when the equipment is ready for transport and its required delivery date.

For Iraq the approximate cost of transporting one Mastiff vehicle by commercial heavy lift aircraft is £41,600.

For Afghanistan the approximate cost of transporting one Mastiff vehicle by commercial heavy lift aircraft is £55,000.

Bulldog deploy to theatre using military shipping. Using a standard calculation for operating costs including the costs of fuel, port handling charges and Suez Transit (and excluding fixed costs such as wages and cost of ownership) the cost of moving one Bulldog is £717. This figure assumes that the vessel carried a full load of cargo which was the case for both of the shipping consignments in this case.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of those *(a)* captured and *(b)* killed by British forces in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan since November 2007 were of Iranian nationality. [200963]

Des Browne: As I stated in my answer to the hon. Member on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1234W, the Ministry of Defence does not maintain records on the nationality of individuals killed in engagements involving UK forces in Iraq or Afghanistan.

No Iranian nationals have been detained by UK forces in Iraq and Afghanistan since November 2007.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of service casualties on current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have been killed and injured in incidents involving roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices. [201885]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* The percentage of fatalities of UK service personnel resulting from improvised explosive devices or mines is

27 per cent. for operations in Afghanistan and 28 per cent. for operations in Iraq.

Data on the proportion of injuries caused by improvised explosive devices or mines are not held centrally.

Joint Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK's military commitment to *(a)* the European Union Battlegroup, *(b)* NATO Response Force, *(c)* NATO Operational Reserve Force, *(d)* the Spearhead Land Element, *(e)* Small Scale Focused Intervention Force and *(f)* Allied Rapid Reaction Corps will be sourced from the Joint Rapid Reaction Force from July to December 2008. [201023]

Des Browne: The Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF) exists to provide the UK's high readiness military contingency and to meet our international high readiness military commitments. In the period from July to December 2008 the UK may be required to provide force elements to the EU Battlegroup, the NATO Response Force and the NATO Operational Reserve Force; these commitments, should they arise, will be met from the JRRF as normal.

The Spearhead Land Element and the Small Scale Focused Intervention capability are both integral components of the JRRF. They are two elements that contribute to the JRRF capability available to Defence for contingent tasks.

The Headquarters Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) is a UK led multinational HQ assigned to NATO. Between July and December 2008 the UK's military commitment to HQ ARRC will not be drawn from elements assigned to the Joint Rapid Reaction Force.

Lynx Helicopters

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what operational roles are planned for the Future Lynx helicopter. [199463]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The Army variant of Future Lynx is intended to be used primarily as a reconnaissance and utility helicopter. The maritime variant is intended to be used primarily against surface and sub-surface threats.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 19 March 2008 on Gurkhas (Reference: MC01743/2008). [202386]

Derek Twigg: I replied to the hon. Member on 28 April.

NATO Response Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what mechanisms the NATO Response Force is funded; and if he will make a statement. [201025]

Des Browne: Costs associated with the NATO Response Force (NRF) are borne directly by the nations providing the force elements; common funding arrangements are not applied. The exception to this is a time-limited arrangement (until the end of 2009), by which common funding can be used to defray the costs associated with the short-notice deployment of elements of the NRF. This is intended to allow nations a reasonable period of time in which to acquire-individually, collectively or by ensuring access to—the strategic lift capability they need to be able to deploy their own forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government spent on the NATO Response Force in each year since 2005. [201026]

Des Browne: The force elements we make available on standby to the NATO Response Force are drawn from the UK's Joint Rapid Reaction Force. As yet, none of these force elements have been activated for deployment. No expenditure specifically related to the NATO Response Force has therefore been incurred in this period.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what units will form the British commitment to the NATO Response Force in the second half of 2008. [201027]

Des Browne: From July to December 2008, the UK's contribution to the NATO Response Force will be an Air Component Command Headquarters and associated support, a deployable air operating base, eight Tornado GR4 aircraft and four air defence aircraft together with two air refuelling aircraft, two tactical transport aircraft, and a contribution to the Joint Logistic Support Group. We will also provide mine counter measures task group command, with a command ship, a destroyer/frigate escort, and a survey vessel. All these forces will be drawn from the UK's Joint Rapid Reaction Force.

Navy: Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ice breakers the Royal Navy had in each year since 1997. [201137]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ice Patrol ship HMS Endurance is the only ship of this kind operated by the Royal Navy and has been in service since 1991.

Woolwich Barracks

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the redevelopment of Woolwich Barracks; and if he will make a statement. [200959]

Derek Twigg: Good progress has been made, and planning consent for the redevelopment of Woolwich Barracks has been obtained. New junior rank single living accommodation for over 400 personnel is due to be delivered by late 2009.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Coal Mining: Bangladesh

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what support his Department has provided to promote the proposal by the UK company Global Coal Management Resources PLC for an opencast coal mine at Phulbari in North West Bangladesh; [198833]

(2) if he will have discussions with the Bangladesh Government on the proposal by the UK company Global Coal Management Resources PLC for an opencast coal mine at Phulbari in North West Bangladesh. [198832]

Mr. Thomas: We have provided support to Global Coal Management Resources PLC, through the British high commission in Dhaka. They have lobbied to ensure that the Government of Bangladesh take the company's interests into consideration and do not prohibit opencast mining. The British high commission will continue to remain in touch with the company and will represent their interests as appropriate. The Bangladeshi Caretaker Government's new draft coal policy leaves the way open for opencast mining in Bangladesh in the future.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his departmental website. [200149]

Mr. Thomas: Following the creation of the Department in June 2007 changes to the design of the website reflecting both the Department's new name and associated brand guidelines were implemented. The total cost of the changes to our website and intranet—which cannot be separated except at disproportionate cost—was £67,000.

Electricity Generation: Renewable Energy

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of UK electricity supply was generated from renewable sources in each year between 1998 and 2007. [200515]

Malcolm Wicks: The proportion of electricity generated in the United Kingdom that has been derived from renewable sources in each year between 1998 and 2006 is shown in the following table. Data for 2007 will not be available until later this year.

Proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources

	Percentage
1998	2.38
1999	2.61
2000	2.62
2001	2.49
2002	2.87
2003	2.65
2004	3.58
2005	4.23
2006	4.55

Energy: Finance

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 334W, on renewable energy: finance, what funds are held by Ofgem arising from the auctioning of renewable obligation certificates and electricity generated under non-fossil fuel obligation contracts. [199305]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The balance of the England and Wales Levy account as at 31 March 2008 is £29.9 million. This amount includes accumulated interest on the account.

The balance of the Scottish Levy account as at 31 March 2008 is £105.9 million. This amount includes accumulated interest on the account.

Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what financial contributions energy suppliers make to Ofgem. [200317]

Malcolm Wicks: Under a Standard Licence Condition, licence fees are collected from the network businesses that hold the following types of licence:

gas transportation

electricity transportation (where the relevant condition is in force)

electricity distribution.

Costs to be recovered by Ofgem are calculated on the basis of a customer numbers formula. For 2007-08, £35.1 million was collected in licence fees to cover Ofgem-related expenditure.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the members are of the co-ordinating group for the solicitors representing former mineworkers. [201644]

Malcolm Wicks: Members of the coordinating group (CG) of claimants' solicitors for each of the Coal Health Compensations schemes are as follows; for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, the CG is made up of:

Irwin Mitchell

Hugh James

Thompsons (Newcastle)

Thompsons (Edinburgh);

and for vibration white finger:

Irwin Mitchell

Hugh James

Thompsons (Edinburgh)

Thompson & Co.

Watson Burton.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the reduction in maximum grant levels under the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme on household demand for solar photovoltaic and micro-wind technologies; and if he will make a statement. [199375]

Malcolm Wicks: Since the introduction of a grant cap in May 2007 for household installations monthly applications, including for solar PV and micro-wind, have decreased relative to before May 2007. However, we have seen a more even spread across the various technologies. There are potentially a number of factors contributing to this lower uptake of household grants. However, we believe that the extension to the household stream of LCBP, relaxation of planning requirements and wider promotion of the programme should help to boost take-up.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of micro-generation installations to be delivered by the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. [199377]

Malcolm Wicks: To date, we have funded 4,300 domestic installations through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. We recently announced that the domestic stream will be extended to June 2010 or until the funds are exhausted whichever comes sooner. We also announced the relaxation of planning permission requirements, making it easier for homeowners to install microgeneration on their homes.

Should we continue allocating grants at the current rate of 200 per month, we would expect to see a further 2,800 completed installations by scheme closure. However, with the changes that we have made, we expect that uptake to increase.

We will continue to monitor uptake to the domestic stream going forward.

Nuclear Reactors: Floods

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment has been made of the risk of flooding of existing and proposed nuclear reactors on coastal sites over their lifetimes; and if he will make a statement. [200793]

Malcolm Wicks: UK coastal nuclear power stations are designed to be protected against flooding, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requires flood defence plans to be periodically reviewed by site operators. HSE would also require appropriate flood protection measures and flood defence plans for any new nuclear power station in the future.

The potential impact of flooding would be a relevant consideration in any future siting assessment for any proposed new nuclear build, alongside a range of other considerations. We will be consulting on draft criteria for the strategic siting assessment in due course.

Personal Savings: Regulation

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has for the further regulation of the operation of Christmas savings clubs. [200374]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have already indicated that the possibility of regulation will be considered once the outcome of the Companies Act investigation into Farepak is available. This consideration will also take account of the initial advice delivered by the OFT and FSA in December 2007, and the Thirteenth Report (2006-07) by the Treasury Select Committee.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether exchanges of expertise and technology for the disposal of highly radioactive nuclear waste take place between the UK and France. [201238]

Malcolm Wicks: Collaboration with France on nuclear power is already well established, and with the commitment to new nuclear in the UK there is now greater scope to reap the benefits. At the recent UK/French summit one of the issues discussed was the scope for exchange of staff and information on waste management between the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and its French counterpart. A bilateral agreement between NDA and ANDRA (the French waste management organisation) will be signed in the coming weeks.

Renewable Energy: Skilled Workers

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to address the skills gap in the renewables sector identified in the Government's White Paper relating to that sector; and if he will make a statement. [201297]

Malcolm Wicks: The issue of skills will be addressed in the forthcoming consultation on the renewable energy strategy.

We are also actively collaborating with employers and sector skills councils to help develop academies for nuclear, the process industries and oil and gas and are working on plans for the power and environmental sectors with the aim of delivering the required skills to work across the energy sector, including renewables.

Renewable Energy: Water Power

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of renewable energy supply came from hydro-generation in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year between 1998 and 2007. [200516]

Malcolm Wicks: Information in this detail is only available for the following years and only for hydro as a proportion of electricity generation.

Proportion of electricity from renewable sources generated by hydro sources

	2003	2004	2005	Percentage 2006
England	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.8
Scotland	77.9	76.7	71.0	60.7
Wales	24.7	27.8	21.7	19.5
Northern Ireland	6.4	7.5	7.0	9.1
United Kingdom total	29.8	34.4	29.2	25.3

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of renewable energy supply generated in the United Kingdom is derived from rivers; and what that figure is expressed in the number of homes powered by such electricity. [200517]

Malcolm Wicks: In the statistics collected on renewable energy by BERR, no distinction is currently made between hydroelectricity derived from rivers and hydroelectricity derived from lakes or other reservoir sources.

Supermarkets: Competition

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission research on the effect of supermarket chains on the convenience shop sector, with particular reference to the level of competition and local dominance; and if he will make a statement. [201906]

Mr. Thomas: This Department has no plans to commission research into this market. Competition in the supermarket and grocery sectors is a matter for the independent competition authorities. The Competition Commission's (CC) inquiry into the UK grocery market is assessing local market concentration in some detail. The CC's final report is expected shortly.

Wind Power: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discount rate has been assumed in carrying out the cost benefit analysis for wind farms *(a)* at current levels of Government subsidy and *(b)* assuming no subsidy. [200021]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The Department does not carry out cost benefit analyses of individual wind farms. The Department has produced estimates of the levelised generation costs for fossil fuels (coal and gas) and low carbon technologies. Estimates for onshore and offshore wind use a pre-tax commercial discount rate of between 10 and 12 per cent.

The Department uses the Treasury Green Book social discount rate to estimate the present value of the resource cost to the economy of low carbon generation technologies compared with generation using fossil fuels.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated to the preventing violent extremism community leadership fund for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [201881]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* The preventing violent extremism: community leadership fund has been allocated £1.1 million, £1.3 million, and £1.5 million for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively.

Construction: Price Fixing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Local Government Association on alleged price fixing in the construction industry and the implications of such practices for local authorities. [201418]

John Healey: There have not been any recent discussions between Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association about alleged price fixing activities in the construction industry.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons are for the different figures given in the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 112W, on council tax, and the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2498, on council tax: tax yields, for council tax receipts in England in 1997-98. [199275]

Mr. Dhanda: I have written to the hon. Member explaining the reasons for the different figures given in the two answers. A ministerial correction amending the answer of 28 January 2008 was published on 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 10MC.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which her Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based; [200736]

(2) what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which her Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91; [200737]

(3) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which her Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if she will make a statement. [200738]

Mr. Dhanda: The 89 local authority pension funds that comprise the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales are valued by actuaries every three years. The most recent valuation took place in March 2007 but the national outcome will not be known until later in the year. Details of individual fund valuation results, including new employer contribution rates and the assumptions used for discount and longevity can be obtained directly from each scheme administering authority.

When the funds were last valued in 2004, this showed that the assets of £80 billion represented some 75 per cent. of the total scheme liabilities of £107 billion. Each scheme administering authority has in place a funding strategy to manage and recover to ensure the on-going solvency of the scheme. Valuation results for English and Welsh local authorities participating in the scheme are available at

www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com/actvale.pdf

and

www.xoq83.dialpipex.com/valwal.pdf

The pension liability for the two firefighters' pension schemes falls on individual fire and rescue authorities. The current unfunded liabilities are estimated to be about £18 billion for English authorities.

The 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme has an employer contribution rate of 22 per cent. of payroll; the 2006 New Firefighters' Pension Scheme's rate is 11 per cent. The estimated costs for employers in the two schemes are:

		£ million
	1992 scheme	*2006 scheme*
2006-07	193.9	2.8
2007-08	194.6	8.9

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public consultations were held by her Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and how many respondents took part in each consultation. [198633]

Mr. Dhanda: As reported in the annual reports of my Department and its predecessor, and as set out in the Government summaries of responses, the following public consultations were held in each of the last three years:

In the calendar year 2005 my predecessor Department ODPM launched 57 public consultations.

In the calendar year 2006 my Department launched 34 public consultations.

In the calendar year 2007 my Department launched 48 public consultations.

Identifying how many respondents took part in each consultation could be done only at disproportionate cost. The number of responses to these consultations varies greatly. For example there were only 76 responses to our consultation on Tolerated Trespassers issued in August 2007. However, there were 55,000 responses for our consultation on Proposals for Future Unitary Structures issued in March 2007.

Fire Services: Resignations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether exit interviews are conducted with retained firefighters when leaving the Fire and Rescue Service. [201410]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Undertaking exit interviews for all staff is a matter of good practice. Fire and rescue services were provided with guidance encouraging this practice by the Home Office as part of two equalities action plans entitled "Toward Diversity" published in 2000 and 2001.

Fire Services: Training

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of initial training for *(a)* a full-time firefighter and *(b)* a retained firefighter was in each fire and rescue service in the latest period for which figures are available. [201411]

Mr. Dhanda: The cost of initial training for both full-time and retained duty system firefighters is a matter for individual fire and rescue service. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Floods: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Government funding has been provided to help repair properties which were damaged in the floods of 2007. [200277]

John Healey: This information is not held by Communities and Local Government and we are therefore unable to provide a breakdown on how much was provided to help repair properties.

To date, Government have made available up to £88 million to support communities in England affected by the floods of June and July 2007. This includes around £18.4 million from Communities and Local Government in flood recovery grant to support the recovery work of local authorities.

Local authorities have flexibility to decide how to best use flood recovery grant based on their own local circumstances. In practice this has included:

support payments to flood affected households;

purchase and provision of new household items to flood affected households;

provision of temporary caravans to allow people to remain within their communities while houses are repaired;

resilience and rescheduling of home improvement programmes to support families in flood damaged homes;

other priorities set through consultation with flood-affected householders and communities.

Communities and Local Government have invited councils to adapt their timetables for the multi-billion pound decent homes programme to help get their tenants back into fully renovated homes as quickly as possible.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has made available £14 million for schools and children's services affected by the floods and regional development agencies have made available around £11 million for businesses affected.

Floods: Local Government Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have raised a ring-fenced sum by precept to deal with problems arising from flooding. [201801]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what target has been set for house building in *(a)* Stroud constituency and *(b)* Stroud district over the next planning period; and what the (i) process and (ii) anticipated timing is for finding sites for these houses in the event that the Hunts Grove development is (A) proceeded with and (B) not proceeded with. [201802]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no figure available for the Stroud constituency because the boundary is smaller than that of Stroud district.

The target for house building in Stroud District over the next planning period (1991-2011 as set out in the Gloucestershire County Structure Plan) is 9,400. The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the period 2006-2026 provides for a total of 6,700 with the RSS Panel Report recommendations increasing this to 9,100.

The process and anticipated timing for finding sites for these houses will be determined by the approved structure plan figures being replaced by the submitted draft RSS figures. The Secretary of State's proposed changes to the RSS are due to be published for public consultation in the summer of 2008 with adoption due before the end of 2008.

We expect housing provision to meet strategic requirements in accordance with PPS3 to be made by Stroud by provision of a site specific allocation of land development plan document (DPD) as part of the local development framework process. The DPD is programmed to be submitted for examination in March 2010 with adoption due in April 2011. A core strategy setting out the spatial strategy is also programmed for adoption in July 2010. These documents will take account of available land in the district including land at Hunts Grove and will need to reflect the then adopted RSS housing figures.

Local Authorities: Planning

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a local authority is permitted to relocate a housing allocation published in its local plan or local development framework from one site to another. [201781]

Mr. Iain Wright: The housing allocations in the Stroud district local plan, adopted on 10 November 2005, were saved for three years after this date by a direction issued by the Secretary of State. Following this date, the housing provision should be reviewed and updated to take account of the up to date strategic requirements of PPS3 and amended through the local development framework process by Stroud district council. This will include a review of all remaining housing allocations from the local plan.

Local Government Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central government grant per head was paid to each *(a)* county council and *(b)* unitary authority in England excluding grant to police authorities and local education authorities in the last financial year for which figures are available. [1] [200845]

John Healey: The amount of central government funding paid to each county council and unitary authority excluding grant to police authorities and local education authorities in any financial year is zero because county councils and unitary authorities are all local education authorities.

Minister for the East of England: Standards

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the *(a)* activities and *(b)* performance the Minister for the East of England since her appointment in June 2007 against the terms of reference for the post set out in the Governance of Britain Green Paper. [201013]

Mr. Dhanda: The Governance of Britain Green Paper states that regional Ministers are expected to provide a clear sense of strategic direction for their regions and ensure that central Government's policies take account of regional needs. This involves working closely with the relevant Government office; the Regional Development Agency; other Government agencies; local government; business, the third sector and other stakeholders. Based on these terms of reference the Minister for the East of England's most significant achievements include:

helping to take forward the restructuring of regional bodies outlined in the Sub National Review;

setting up and chairing the quarterly Regional Partnership Group;

advising the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on RDA board appointments;

attending quarterly meetings with BERR Ministers and RDA chairs to discuss regional issues and performance;

engaging with a wide range of cross government bodies and agencies on regional issues like: local area agreements; the growth agenda; water supply; coastal flooding and defences; skills; health; women's enterprise and preparations for the Olympics in the East of England;

attending a wide range of events, visits and meetings with regional bodies; partners and stakeholders with a six-month forward programme of regional visits planned with local authorities and regional partners who want the Minister for the East of England to help them to deliver key regional growth and regeneration projects; and

1. *[Official Report, 30 April 2008, Vol. 475, c. 6MC.]*

attending regular meetings with the eight other regional Ministers to discuss matters of mutual interest like policing; transport and the growth agenda and share best practice.

As the Governance of Britain Green Paper does not set out any executive powers for regional Ministers, the Minister for the East of England has not made any executive decisions since her appointment.

National Muslim Women's Advisory Group

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which members of the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group have attended each meeting held with members of her Department since January 2008. [201432]

Hazel Blears: The National Muslim Women's Advisory Group has had two official meetings with the Secretary of State, in November 2007 and March 2008.

15 of the 19 members attended the meeting:

Siddika Ahmed;
Farkhanda Chaudhry;
Zuelkha Dala;
Reedah El-Saie;
Rokshana Fiaz;
Rukaiya Jeraj;
Samina Kauser;
Shahda Khan;
Sabira Lakha;
Adeeba Malik;
Sabin Malik;
Naheed Mather;
Andleen Razaq;
Shahien Taj; and
Batool Al Toma.

The four remaining members sent their apologies:

Fareena Alam;
Parvin Ali;
Shaista Gohair; and
Tasneem Mahmood.

Members of the advisory group also met with the Secretary of State at the formal launch of the group on 31 January at No 10.

15 of the 19 members attended the launch:

Parvin Ali;
Siddika Ahmed;
Fareena Alam;
Farkhanda Chaudhry;
Zuelkha Dala;
Reedah El-Saie;
Shaista Gohair;
Rukaiya Jeraj;
Samina Kauser;
Shahda Khan;
Sabira Lakha;
Tasneem Mahmood;
Sabin Malik;
Andleen Razaq; and
Batool Al Toma.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings she has attended with the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group since January 2008. [201433]

Hazel Blears: The National Muslim Women's Advisory Group has had two official meetings with the Secretary of State, in November 2007 and March 2008.

Members of the advisory group also met with the Secretary of State at the formal launch of the group on 31 January 2008 at No. 10.

The group have also had a range of meetings among themselves within their regions.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her changes to the draft South East Plan will be published before the summer 2008 Parliamentary adjournment. [201875]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State intends to publish proposed changes for the draft regional spatial strategy (RSS) for the south-east (the South East Plan) before the summer recess.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how long the consultation period will be on her proposed changes to the draft South East Plan. [201876]

Mr. Dhanda: It is the Secretary of State's intention to allow 12 weeks for consultation on her proposed changes for the draft regional spatial strategy (RSS) for the south-east (the South East Plan). The statutory requirement is for a consultation of at least eight weeks, we are however mindful of the proposed timing of consultation over the summer period and for that reason will be allowing an additional four weeks.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to permit changes to the South East Plan which involve the removal of green belt protection in whole or in part. [201877]

Mr. Dhanda: The report of the independent panel is still under consideration and it would be inappropriate to comment on what may or may not be included in any proposed changes.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries there is currently no safe route of return for failed asylum seekers. [201000]

Mr. Byrne: There are no countries to which the United Kingdom does not remove failed asylum seekers on the basis of the safety of the route. Officials consider not only the merits of the individual case but also the most effective means of achieving a safe and successful return. While there is no policy not to return to any

country or territory, our ability to return may of course from time to time temporarily be affected by legal challenge. This is currently the case with Zimbabwe, where we have undertaken to the High Court that we will not enforce the return of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe until the current country guidance litigation is resolved, and that remains the case.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been returned to Zimbabwe *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily during the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [201011]

Mr. Byrne: The latest published information showing removals of asylum seekers by destination can be found in Table 11.2 of the Asylum Statistics: United Kingdom 2006 bulletin.

We undertook to the High Court on 26 September 2006 that we would not enforce the return of asylum seekers to Zimbabwe until the current country guidance litigation is finally resolved, and that remains the case.

Copies of the aforementioned publication are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gove.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Border and Immigration Agency

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain have been lost by the Border and Immigration Agency's *(a)* Security Casework Unit, *(b)* War Crimes Unit, *(c)* Criminal Casework Directorate and *(d)* other casework units in each year since 1997. [198992]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available. It is not possible for the UK Border Agency to be aware of an application until it has been received and logged using the case information database. The onus is on the applicant to ensure that the agency receives their application. In the event that evidence has been provided that such an application has been received, the date of receipt will be taken into account when considering whether such an application has been made prior to the expiry of any other granted period of leave that the individual has held.

Border and Immigration Agency: Complaints

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were made to the Border and Immigration Agency in each year since establishment, broken down by the nature of complaint; and if she will make a statement. [199959]

Mr. Byrne: Data can be provided from 2000 for service delivery complaints and 2001 for misconduct complaints.

The number of complaints received from members of the public through the Border and Immigration Agency's central complaints unit (the customer focus team), broken down by category and year are as follows:

Misconduct complaints (relating to staff behaviour)

	Number
1 January 2001 to 31 March 2002	530
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	436
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	546
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	422
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	433
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	354
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	360

Service delivery complaints (relating to level of service)

	Number
1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001	2,747
1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002	3,943
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	3,402
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	11,788
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	13,008
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	13,618
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	12,594
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	13,585

Case Resolution Directorate: Expenditure

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent to date on the Case Resolution Directorate, broken down by *(a)* wages and salaries, *(b)* IT costs, *(c)* administration costs, *(d)* legal fees, *(e)* consultant fees and *(f)* other costs; and if she will make a statement. [200112]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1456W. There are no "other costs" to those listed.

Community Policing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to improve links between the police and community. [199835]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* On 31 March 2008 the Government announced that their commitment that there would be a Neighbourhood Policing Team in every area by 2008 has been met. For the first time ever, every household across England and Wales has access to a visible and dedicated police team to help solve local problems. Announced on the same day, the 'Name in Every Neighbourhood' campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding of neighbourhood policing among the public and ensure they know how to find the contact details of their local team and know how to engage with them.

Neighbourhood policing teams focus on engaging with their local community and provide high visibility, reassurance policing in order to deal with the issues that matter most to the local community. Partnership working is a key element of neighbourhood policing and locally identified issues will be addressed by neighbourhood policing teams in partnership with other community safety partners.

The Government have committed to making consistent, monthly, local information on crime available throughout the country. This will include data on crime and community safety issues, such as information about what local agencies are doing to tackle their community safety priorities.

The Home Office is working with ACPO, APA and other stakeholders to identify how best this can be achieved.

Community Policing: Publicity

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on *(a)* newspaper advertising and *(b)* other forms of advertising for the launch of the Neighbourhood Policing programme. [200385]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office spent £440,000 on newspaper advertising and £450,000 on radio advertising.

Community Support Officers: Greater London

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* police officers are in each ethnic category in each London borough. [195604]

Mr. McNulty: The ethnicity of police service personnel is not collected at the borough level, and is only available at the force level.

The available data are given in the following tables.

Proportion of police officers[1] in London by ethnicity as at 31 March 2007

	Metropolitan police	*Percentage City of London police*
White	91.9	94.9
Mixed	1.4	1.4
Black or Black British	2.4	1.5
Asian or Asian British	2.8	2.1
Other ethnic group	1.3	0.1
Not stated	0.2	0.0

[1] Figures based on full-time equivalent figures rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items.

Proportion of police community support officers[1] in London by ethnicity as at 31 March 2007

	Metropolitan police	*Percentage City of London police*
White	67.4	83.3
Mixed	3.8	8.3
Black or Black British	11.3	2.8
Asian or Asian British	12.1	5.6
Other ethnic group	4.1	0.0
Not stated	1.3	0.0

[1] Figures based on full-time equivalent figures rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items.

Crime Prevention: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the website www.crimereduction.gov.uk in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception. [200382]

Mr. Byrne: It is not possible to extract the costs of this website from the others we manage.

Crime: Statistics

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1251W, on crime: statistics, whether a perceived lack of response on previous occasions has been adduced as a reason for not reporting crime. [200474]

Mr. Coaker: The British crime survey (BCS) does collect information on reasons why victims had not reported crimes to the police. However, the BCS does not collect information specifically on whether crimes had not been reported to the police due to lack of response on previous occasions. These cases would be included in the broader category of people who had not reported crimes to the police due to previous bad experience with the police or the courts/dislike or fear of the police.

Information on reasons given for not reporting crimes to the police based on the latest figures (2006-07 BCS) is included in the following table, which is published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/07 Crime in England and Wales 2006/07, table 2.11 at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1107.pd

Table 1: Reasons for not reporting crime to the police, 2006-07

Percentage

	Vandalism	*Burglary*	*Thefts from vehicles and attempts[1]*	*Other household theft*	*Other personal theft*	*BCS violence[2]*	*Comparable subset[3]*	*All BCS*
Trivial/no loss/police would not/could not do anything[4]	83	70	84	81	66	46	71	72
Private/dealt with ourselves	10	17	10	13	13	34	17	16

Table 1: Reasons for not reporting crime to the police, 2006-07

Percentage

	Vandalism	Burglary	Thefts from vehicles and attempts[1]	Other household theft	Other personal theft	BCS violence[2]	Comparable subset[3]	All BCS
Inconvenient to report	5	6	7	5	6	4	6	6
Reported to other authorities	2	2	1	2	14	8	4	5
Common occurrence	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	3
Fear of reprisal	3	4	0	2	1	7	3	3
Dislike or fear of the police/previous bad experience with the police or courts	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
Other[5]	3	9	5	3	9	10	6	6
Unweighted base	2,805	362	1,323	1,414	604	933	6,234	8,252

[1] Thefts of vehicles not shown as very few incidents were not reported.
[2] Comparable BCS violence includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault with no injury.
[3] The comparable crime subset includes vandalism, burglary, vehicle theft, bicycle theft, wounding, assault with and without minor injury and robbery.
[4] Too trivial/no loss/would not have been interested/police could not do anything/attempt at offence was unsuccessful are merged due to the similarity in their definition, for example: a respondent who thinks the incident was too trivial may code the incident as 'too trivial, no loss' or 'the police would not be interested' as these two codes may be understood as meaning the same.
[5] This category includes: something that happens as part of job; partly my/friend's/relative's fault; offender not responsible for actions; thought someone else had reported incident/similar incidents; tried to report but was not able to contact the police/police not interested; other.
Source:
2006-07 BCS. More than one reason could be given.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in *(a)* Eddisbury, *(b)* Crewe and Nantwich, *(c)* City of Chester, *(d)* Wallasey and *(e)* Weaver Vale constituencies in each of the last three years. [202325]

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in *(a)* North East Hampshire, *(b)* East Hampshire, *(c)* Winchester and *(d)* Romsey constituencies in each of the last five years. [202377]

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Wealden constituency in each of the last five years. [202176]

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Worcester constituency in each of the last five years. [201293]

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Mid Worcestershire constituency in each of the last five years. [201292]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1252W, on departmental accountancy, what general rate of inflation is taken into account by her Department in uprating fees for its services. [195919]

Mr. Byrne: Fees for Home Office services are adjusted based on modelling of the future costs of provision. This is based on a range of factors which could include demand projections, the contracts involved, Government pay policy, efficiency plans and the general rate of inflation.

Therefore adjustments to fees will not directly track any particular measure of inflation.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will include the name of the relevant constituent on her Department's cards

acknowledgement of correspondence from hon. Members about constituents to facilitate access to previous correspondence. [201645]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* Acknowledgement cards sent to hon. Members already provide brief details of the constituent on whose behalf they have contacted the Home Office. Any references provided by Members are also included.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what visits she made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1st January 2005 to 31st December 2007; and what events she attended at each. [197164]

Mr. Byrne: Since taking the position of Home Secretary in June 2007 my right hon. Friend has visited the following venues in her ministerial capacity:

Venue	*Event*	*Date*
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Home Office Senior Civil Service event	4 October 2007
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Conference with senior stakeholders on crime	16 October 2007
Queen Elizabeth Centre	SOCA staff event	19 December 2007
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Home Office Network staff event	12 March 2008
Business Design Centre, Islington	Speech on alcohol-related issues	6 February 2008
Edinburgh International Conference Centre	National Police Memorial Day Service	23 September 2007

My right hon. Friend has not visited any other of the venues in a ministerial capacity between her appointment in June 2007 and 31 December 2007.

Between 1 January 2005 and my right hon. Friend's appointment as Home Secretary her predecessors visited the following venues for the following events in their ministerial capacity:

Venue	*Event*	*Date*
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Home Office event	5 July 2005
Queen Elizabeth Centre	FCO Leadership Conference	28 March 2006
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Home Office Senior Civil Service event	21 June 2006
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Security and Resilience Forum—key note speech	31 October 2006
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Home Office Senior Civil Service event	7 November 2006
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Launch of the New Asylum Model	12 March 2007
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Home Office Network staff event	14 March 2007
Queen Elizabeth Centre	Public Services Reform Conference	27 March 2007
Excel Conference Centre	Speech at the ACPO and APA Conference	25 May 2006

None of my right hon. Friend's predecessors have visited any other of the venues in a ministerial capacity between 1 January 2005 and the appointment of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what websites her Department operates. [200360]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office operates the following websites:

Websites the Home Office operates

	Website
101	www.101.gov.uk/
a:gender	www.csag.org.uk/
Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Immigration (ABNI)	www.abni.org.uk
Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)	www.drugs.gov.uk/drugs-laws/acmd/
Advisory Panel on Country Information (APCI)	www.apci.org.uk
Animal Procedures Committee (APC)	www.apc.gov.uk
Assets Recovery Agency	www.assetsrecovery.gov.uk

Websites the Home Office operates

	Website
Border and Immigration Agency	www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk#
Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure	www.cpnatinf.gov.uk
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre	www.ceop.gov.uk
Connected—(gun crime practitioners)	www.connected.gov.uk
Crime Statistics	www.crimestatistics.org.uk
Criminal Records Bureau	www.crb.gov.uk
Family Records Centre (PRO)	www.familyrecords.gov.uk
Financial Investigator Support System (Assets Recovery Agency)	www.fiss.gov.uk
General Register Office	www.gro.gov.uk
Home Office	www.homeoffice.gov.uk
Home Office (Immigration and Nationality Directorate)	www.hoindstaff.gov.uk
Identity and Passport Service	www.ips.gov.uk
Identity Theft—cross gov campaign	www.identity-theft.org.uk
Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)	www.ipcc.gov.uk
Independent Safeguarding Authority	www.isa-gov.org.uk
Investigatory Powers Tribunal	www.ipt-uk.com
Life in the UK Test	www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk
National Anti-Fraud Network	www.nafn.gov.uk
National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO)	www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk
National Police Improvement Agency	www.npia.police.uk
National Refugee Integration Forum (NRIF)	www.nrif.org.uk/
Neighbourhood policing	www.neighbourhoodpolicing.co.uk
Office of Surveillance Commissioners	www.surveillancecommissioners.gov.uk
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)	www.oisc.gov.uk
Police Could You—recruitment website	www.policecouldyou.co.uk
Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO)	www.pito.org.uk
Police portal	www.police.uk/
Queen's Award for Voluntary Service	www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk
Security Industry Authority (SIA)	www.the-sia.org.uk
SOCA	www.soca.gov.uk/
Stop and Search	www.stopandsearch.com/
Technical Advisory Board (for the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000) (TAB)	www.technicaladvisoryboard.org.uk
Think U Know—(child safety online campaign)	www.thinkuknow.co.uk
Treatment the Works	www.treatmenttheworks.com
UK visas	www.ukvisas.gov.uk
Working in the UK	www.workingintheuk.gov.uk

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed by her Department on 1st January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [200492]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office annual reports provide the staff numbers for each of the last five years.

2007

Annual report

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-07?view=Binary

2006

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-06?view=Binary

2004-05

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-0405/annrep2005-0-complete?view=Binary

2002-03

http://www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm54/5406/5406.pdf

2003-04

2003-04 annual report is in the public domain, and is in the House Library.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in her Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193532]

Mr. Byrne: Expenditure figures for the Home Office on overnight accommodation by civil servants and all Ministers for the financial year 2006-07 (the last 12 months for which audited figures are available) was £8.28 million.

These figures apply to the period prior to the machinery of government changes when the Department employed approximately 78,000 staff. They include information for the core Home Office, the Border and Immigration

Agency, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and the National Offender Management Service (the latter two are now part of the Ministry of Justice). The Home Office currently employs approximately 25,000 staff.

The requested staff and regional splits could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

When travelling on departmental business, officials are expected to make efficient and cost-effective accommodation arrangements.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which losses her Department was granted Treasury approval in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [200495]

Mr. Byrne: All losses incurred by the Home Office during the last five years have been managed by the Department within the scope of authorities delegated by the Treasury. Current thresholds for losses agreed with the Treasury are:

	Loss (£)
Write-offs	25,000,000
Bad debts	10,000,000
Fraud/theft	50,000
Abandoned/waived claims	50,000
Penalties under the Immigration Act 1987	50,000

The overall level of losses incurred by the Home Office in any one year is reported in its Resource Accounts.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many written parliamentary questions her Department took longer than 10 days to answer in each of the last three years. [200502]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is set out in the following table.

Session	*Total number of written parliamentary questions received*	*Total number of written parliamentary questions that took longer than 10 days to answer*	*Proportion of written parliamentary questions that took longer than 10 days to answer (Percentage)*
2006-07	5,964	1,370	23
2007-08[1]	2,764	814	29

[1] Data based on questions answered up to 22 April 2008.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of her Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194982]

Mr. Byrne: Information on employment tribunals is only available for part of the period requested.

Records held centrally within Home Office headquarters, the Border and Immigration Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau show that the number of settled employment tribunal claims brought under each category is as follows:

Type of case	*2005*[1]	*2006*[2]	*2007*[3]	*Total*
Discrimination: Sex	0	3	6	9
Discrimination: Race	0	1	1	2
Discrimination: Sexual Orientation	0	0	2	2

[1] 2005 information includes Home Office HQ and the Criminal Records Bureau.
[2] 2006 information includes Home Office HQ, the Border and Immigration Agency and the Criminal Records Bureau.
[3] 2007 information includes Home Office HQ, the Border and Immigration Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Six of the claims brought in 2007 were settled out of court as follows:

Claims settled out of court	*2007*
Discrimination: Sex	4
Discrimination: Race	2
Discrimination: Sexual Orientation	1

Information on the settlement of the other seven cases is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to facilitate attendance of overseas visitors to the 2012 Olympic Games through the visa system. [198820]

Mr. Byrne: We intend to facilitate attendance of overseas visitors to the 2012 Olympic Games. For those overseas nationals that require a visa to enter the UK, the UK Border Agency is considering whether value would be added by developing a major events visa—including to promote the 2012 Cultural Olympiad; the Olympic Games; and the Paralympic Games. This was included in recent consultation on visitor visas and we will discuss proposals further with appropriate stakeholders.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of foreign nationals on student visas who worked more than the permitted 20 hours during term time in the last 12 months. [199858]

Mr. Byrne: There is no estimate of the number of foreign nationals on student visas who worked more than the permitted 20 hours during term time in the last 12 months.

Refusals of applications for variations of leave on this basis are not recorded separately to refusals for other reasons and therefore cannot be identified, except at a disproportionate cost.

Genetics: Databases

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether any checks on the Dutch disk containing DNA samples of criminals remain to be completed; [196812]

(2) how many matches have been found between the Dutch disk containing the DNA samples of suspected criminals and *(a)* the national DNA database and *(b)* other records or databases checked; how many people whose profiles have been matched have been convicted of a criminal offence since January 2007; and what those offences were. [196813]

Jacqui Smith: As part of an initiative to exchange data between the UK and Holland, 2,159 DNA profiles from crime scenes in Holland were searched against the UK National DNA Database. The operational police response to the DNA crime scene data supplied by the Dutch is being led by a group chaired by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on which the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the National Policing Improvement Agency, the National DNA Database (NDNAD) Custodian, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Home Office are represented.

This remains a continuing police operation in liaison with the Dutch authorities.

I am continuing to liaise with ACPO to be clear when a formal report to Parliament would be appropriate.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the number of adventitious matches expected to arise between crime scene DNA profiles submitted by law enforcement agencies elsewhere in the European Union and individuals' DNA profiles held on the national DNA databases in each of the next five years; [197981]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of adventitious matches expected to arise between crime scene DNA profiles submitted by UK police and individuals' DNA profiles held on the national DNA database in each of the next five years. [197982]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* When the UK National DNA Database (NDNAD) was set up in 1995, the SGM profiling system was used. This looked at six areas of DNA, plus a gender marker. The probability of an adventitious (chance) match between full SGM DNA profiles of unrelated individuals is of the order of one in 50 million. As the NDNAD grew in size, instances did come to light where different individuals were found to have the same SGM profile, hence the decision to change to SGM Plus in 1999.

The quoted probability of a match between full SGM Plus DNA profiles of unrelated individuals is one in one billion (i.e. one in a thousand million).

The NDNAD Custodian carefully monitors replicate DMA profiles loaded to the Database, and a key reason for doing this is to identify potential adventitious matches between SGM Plus DMA profiles derived from unrelated individuals. To date, no such adventitious match has been found. This indicates the SGM Plus match probability to be significantly lower than the figure quoted—it is probably better than one in one trillion (i.e. one in a million million).

Safeguards against possible miscarriages of justice arising from adventitious matches operate at two levels—firstly, further investigation of matches using the SGM Plus technique, and secondly, the fact that if a person is to be charged on the basis of a DNA match, the CPS require that there must be supporting non-DNA evidence available to be used in evidence. DNA evidence is one piece of the information that the courts would require for a successful prosecution.

Other EU states use different profiling systems and do not publish information on the likelihood of adventitious matches using these systems. However, the level of overlap between SGM Plus DNA profiles and those developed by other systems is that the discriminating power will typically be of the same order as the SGM (rather than the SGM Plus) level. It is thus extremely important that all possible opportunities are taken to improve the discriminating power associated with a match, for example by re-analysis of the sample to upgrade the profile before any other information on the identity of a suspect nominated by a DNA match is disclosed to an overseas police authority.

Heathrow Airport: Security

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she held with BAA in advance of the introduction of universal fingerprinting at Heathrow Terminal 5; and if she will make a statement. [198630]

Jacqui Smith: In the building of Terminal 5 at Heathrow, the British Airports Authority (BAA) took the decision to introduce a common departure lounge (CDL). BAA were required to ensure that any immigration risks arising from the mixing of domestic and international passengers were mitigated and a working group, which includes BAA, British Airways (BA), the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) and other control agencies, has worked together since 2005 to consider appropriate mitigation measures. BAA presented a number of systems which they believed were capable of mitigating the risks to Border Security and following a number of trials, fingerprinting together with digital facial recognition comparison were identified as the most effective solution. However, to ensure that the proposed system is fully validated by the Information Commissioner, it has been agreed that the system will operate using only digital photography until such validation is given.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary: Public Appointments

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the contract of the Chief Inspector of Constabulary has been extended without a competitive process since the inception of the post. [199393]

Mr. McNulty: The contracts of two HM Chief Inspectors of Constabulary (HMCIC) have been extended since 1962, when the first HMCIC was appointed. These appointments were made in

accordance with the principles of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of service of Chief Inspectors of Constabulary has been since the inception of the post. [199394]

Mr. McNulty: The average (mean) length of service for HM Chief Inspectors of Constabulary (excluding the current HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary) since the first appointment in 1962 is two years and eight months.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what characteristics distinguish the identity cards to be issued to foreign nationals from the visas that are currently issued to them. [201235]

Mr. Byrne: The identity card for foreign nationals will be a highly secure polycarbonate card which will contain the holder's biometric identifiers in a tamperproof embedded chip including a photograph and two fingerprints. The visas issued contain photographs but unlike the cards do not store the fingerprints that are enrolled when an application is made outside the UK. The biometric data collected as part of the visa application process are checked against immigration records in the UK.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which categories of foreign nationals require visas; which categories will be issued with identity cards in future and from what date; and which categories will be required to obtain the relevant documentation *(a)* before and *(b)* after entry to the UK. [201236]

Mr. Byrne: The categories of foreign nationals requiring visas can be found on the following website: www.ukvisas.gov.uk along with the documentation required to support applications for entry clearance to the UK. Non-visa nationals from outside the EEA will normally only require entry clearance if visiting the UK for longer than six months. The rollout strategy document Introducing Compulsory Identity Cards for Foreign Nationals' published on 6 March (a copy is available in the House Library) sets out the approach to issuing identity cards for foreign nationals. We will phase in the introduction of the card, starting with those applying for leave to remain as students. Within three years all new applicants will have to apply for an identity card alongside their immigration application.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department's advertising campaign concerning the employment of illegal labour cost. [199430]

Mr. Byrne: The total cost for running the Illegal Working Campaign was £913,608. The campaign was run in two phases, the first phase ran in October/November 2007 the second in January/February 2008. The campaign comprised radio and press adverts in trade, national and regional publications.

Immigration

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers detained by the police have been sent unaccompanied to immigration detention or removal centres in each of the last five years. [199010]

Mr. Byrne: Illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers detained by the police are not sent unaccompanied to immigration detention or removal centres.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of immigrants who will be affected by the introduction of the proposed points-based system. [199161]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The Office for National Statistics produces total international migration (TIM) estimates of the number of people legally entering and leaving the country each year. The TIM calculations are based largely from data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) which gives both the reasons for entry to the UK and the citizenship of those arriving.

Once fully established, the points based system will cover non-EU work-related migrants, students and their dependants. We estimate this will cover close to six in 10 of the non-British inflow.

Immigration Controls: Airports

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what process is used to admit UK service personnel who are nationals of Commonwealth countries through UK airport immigration; and what representations she has received on difficulties experienced by those personnel. [201360]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The Immigration Act 1971 exempts from immigration control a member of the United Kingdom's armed forces subject to service law. A person is regarded as exempt from control (except for the provisions relating to deportation) so long as he or she is a member of those forces.

Members of the United Kingdom's armed forces are required to produce to an immigration officer documentary evidence of their exemption from control. They may hold a national passport which has already been endorsed with an exemption from control stamp or, alternatively, they may hold a personal identity card issued by the military authority to which they belong. Both are normally sufficient to demonstrate their entitlement to be treated as exempt.

Data relating to representations made by HM forces personnel about difficulties experienced by them when passing through the immigration control are not collated and are therefore unavailable.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will introduce an expedited immigration service for UK service personnel who are nationals of Commonwealth countries entering the UK at airports. [201361]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The Immigration Act 1971 exempts from immigration control a member of the United Kingdom's armed forces subject to service law. A person is regarded as exempt from control (except for the provisions relating to deportation) so long as he or she is a member of those forces.

Members of the United Kingdom's armed forces are required to produce to an Immigration Officer documentary evidence of their exemption from control. They may hold a national passport which has already been endorsed with an exemption from control stamp or, alternatively, they may hold a personal identity card issued by the military authority to which they belong. Both are normally sufficient to demonstrate their entitlement to be treated as exempt.

Given their exempt status and the need to provide evidence of that status to an Immigration Officer, there are no plans to alter the processes in place for members of the United Kingdom's armed forces who arrive at airports in the United Kingdom.

Immigration Controls: Tuberculosis

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent the entry to the UK of those with *(a)* tuberculosis and *(b)* extreme drug resistant tuberculosis. [200679]

Mr. Byrne: Those seeking leave to enter the UK for more than six months, who are subject to immigration control and who come from countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis of all types (over 40 cases of TB per 100,000 population) as well as or those who claim asylum at port are routinely referred to the port medical inspector (PMI) for medical examination, which includes TB screening. In addition, immigration officers are required to refer for medical examination anyone who appears ill, or who mentions health or illness as a reason for coming to the UK.

In addition visa applicants from countries with a particularly high prevalence of TB are required to undergo TB screening before seeking a visa. Anyone found to have active infectious TB must complete a course of treatment in their home country before being granted entry clearance. The countries specified include Bangladesh, Kenya (which also covers Eritrean and Somali nationals who travel there to apply for visas), Ghana (which also takes applications from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Niger) and Pakistan, Sudan, Tanzania and Thailand (which also processes visa applications for residents of Cambodia and Laos).

Decisions on any further development of the programme will be taken in the light of an evaluation of the scheme which is expected to take place later this year.

Immigration Officers: Powers

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the offences are for which an immigration officer can *(a)* detain and *(b)* arrest an individual at a UK port. [199145]

Jacqui Smith: There are 50 offences for which an immigration officer may arrest and detain an individual at a United Kingdom port. A full list of offences is contained in Annex A.

Under section 2 of the UK Borders Act 2007 a designated immigration officer at a port in England, Wales or Northern Ireland may also detain (for a maximum of three hours) any individual who the officer thinks is subject to a warrant for arrest or may be liable to arrest by a constable for any offence, pending arrival of a constable.

Powers of arrest under section 28A Immigration Act 1971

	Offence
S.24(1)(a)	Entry without leave/in breach of Deportation Order (or attempting)
S.24(1)(d)	Failure to submit to medical examination
S.24(1)(e)	Failure to comply with Temporary Admission
S.24(1)(f)	Disembarks after being placed on board for Removal Directions
S.24(1)(g)	Breach of condition of restriction order under S.3(7)
S.24A(1)(a)	Deception to seek/gain Leave To Enter/Remain
S.25(1)	Act which knowingly facilitates breach of immigration law by non EU citizen
S.25A(1)	Knowingly, for gain, facilitates entry into UK of asylum seeker
S.25B(1)	Assisting entry in breach of Deportation Order
S.25B(3)	Facilitating the arrival of an excluded person
S.26(1)(g)	Obstruction of an Immigration Officer
S.26A(3)(a)	Makes false registration card
S.26A(3)(b)	Alters card with intent deceive/for another to deceive
S.26A(3)(c)	Possession false/altered card without reasonable excuse
S.26A(3)(d)	Uses/attempts use false card for purpose which a card is issued
S.26A(3)(e)	Uses/attempts use altered card with intent to deceive
S.26A(3)(f)	Makes article to be used in making false card
S.26A(3)(g)	Makes article to alter card with intent to deceive/enable another to deceive
S.26A(3)(h)	Possession (f) or (g) article without reasonable excuse
S.26B(1)	Possession immigration stamp without reasonable excuse

Powers of arrest under section 28A Immigration Act 1971

	Offence
S.26B(2)	Possession replica immigration stamp without reasonable excuse

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004

	Offence
S.2(1)	Offence of not having at leave or asylum interview an immigration document which is in force and satisfactorily establishes identity and nationality/citizenship. (Power of arrest under s.2 (10))
S.2(2)	Offence of not having at leave or asylum interview, in respect of a dependant child, an immigration document which is in force and satisfactorily establishes the child's identity and nationality/citizenship. (Power of arrest under s.2 (10))
S.4(1)	Arranging or facilitating the arrival in the UK of a person, where the accused intends to exploit that person or believes that another person is likely to do so. (Power of arrest under s.14(1))
S.4(2)	Arranging or facilitating travel within the UK by a person, where the accused intends to exploit that person or believes that another person is likely to do so
S.4(3)	Arranging or facilitating the departure from the UK of a person, where the accused intends to exploit that person outside the UK or believes that another person is likely to do so

S.14 Power of arrest under s.14(1) for offences listed

	Offence
Common Law	Conspiracy to Defraud
s.57 Offences v Person Act 1861	Bigamy (offences against person act 1861)
s.3(1)(a) Perjury Act 1911	Making a false statement to procure marriage
s.3(1)(b) Perjury Act 1911	Make false statement for entry in marriage register
s.4 Perjury Act 1911	False statement relating to birth and death
s.7 Perjury Act 1911 (for ss 3 and 4)	Aiding and abetting offences under ss 3 and 4 of the Perjury Act 1911
s.1 Theft Act 1968	Theft
s.15 Theft Act 1968	Obtaining property by deception
s.16 Theft Act 1968	Obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception
s.17 Theft Act 1968	False accounting
s.22 Theft Act 1968	Handling stolen goods
s.1 Theft Act 1978	Obtaining services by deception
s.2 Theft Act 1978	Evading liability by deception
s.1 Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981	Forgery
s.2 Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981	Copying false instrument
s.3 Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981	Using false instrument
s.4 Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981	Using copy of false instrument
s.25(1) Identity Cards Act 2006	Possession of a false identity document with intent
s.25(3) Identity Cards Act 2006	Possession of article designed to make false identity document
s.25(5) Identity Cards Act 2006	Possession of false identity document
s.57 Sexual Offences Act 2003	Trafficking into UK for sexual exploitation
s.58 Sexual Offences Act 2003	Trafficking within UK for sexual exploitation
s.59 Sexual Offences Act 2003	Trafficking out of UK for sexual exploitation
S.35(3)	Failing to comply with a requirement of the S of S under section 35(1), without reasonable excuse (i.e. failure to comply with re-documentation process)

Immigration Officers: Sick Leave

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many self-certified days of sick leave were taken per head by *(a)* immigration officers, *(b)* other Border and Immigration Agency staff, *(c)* police and *(d)* staff in her core Department in each of the last five years. [193120]

Mr. Byrne: The number of self-certified sick days of leave taken per head by immigration officers and other border and immigration staff in each of the last three years are shown in the following table.

	Number
Immigration officers	
2005	1.70
2006	1.80
2007	2.04
BIA staff	
2005	1.63
2006	1.47
2007	1.51

The periods are calendar years—2005, 2006 and 2007. Data previous to 2005 are unavailable due to lack of central recording. All data are obtained from the Home Office personnel system—Adelphi.

Police

The number of self-certified sick days of leave taken by police staff in each of the last three years are shown in the following table.

	Days	*Hours*
2002-03	10.4	—
2003-04	9.6	—
2004-05	—	70.9

	Days	Hours
2005-06	—	69.3
2006-07	—	69.7

Data on police officer self-certified absence are not available. Data are collected for all sick absences and since 2004-05 is collated and published as part of the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF). Those data are the form of working hours lost to sickness and are published on the Home Office website. Data for and prior to 2003-04, are not on the same basis as those available for 2004-05 onwards. Those earlier data are the form of working days lost.

Core Home Office

The number of self-certified sick days of leave taken by core Home Office staff in each of the last three years are shown in the following table.

Core staff

Calendar year	Days
2005	0.68
2006	0.83
2007	0.89

Data prior to 2005 are unavailable due to lack of central recording of data. The information has been obtained from the Home Office personnel database—Adelphi.

Immigration: EC Action

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the outcomes for the UK of the European Return Preparatory Actions 2005-06; and if she will make a statement. [196309]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* In 2005 the European Community funded a total of 16 projects under the RETURN 2005 programme. The UK was partner in four of these projects working with 12 other member states and one non-governmental organisation.

In 2006 the European Community funded a total of 20 projects under the RETURN 2006 programme. The UK was partner in five of these projects working with seven other member states and two non-governmental organisations.

The projects we have participated in have not yet been fully evaluated, however we have mostly supported assisted voluntary return which we consider very important in the UK. Reintegration assistance helps break the cycle of migration; meaning return is more sustainable for individuals and families, and contributes indirectly to communities in the country of origin. We have also gained expertise from working with other countries on these projects.

Immigration: Interpreters

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what scale of fees was payable to interpreters by *(a)* the Immigration Service and *(b)* each other police force in respect of (i) illegal entry and (ii) criminal matters in each of the last five years; how much was paid for such services in each such year in each category; and what expenses are payable. [198519]

Mr. McNulty: The following tables set out the scale of fees payable to and amounts paid for interpreters in respect of the Immigration Service and the Metropolitan police. Figures are not held centrally on other police force areas and such information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

(a) Immigration Service: Interpreters fees, 2003-04

	Hourly rates (£)
Monday to Saturday	
First hour	48
Then 0801 to 1800 hrs	16
Then 1801 to 0800 hrs	20
Sundays/bank holidays	
First hour	72
Then	32

(b) Metropolitan Police: Interpreters fees

	Hourly rates (£)		
	Monday to Saturday		Sunday/bank holidays
	0800 to 2000 hrs	2000 to 0800 hrs	
2003-04	31.50	47.25	63
2004-05	32.45	47.25	64.90
2005-06	33.42	50.13	66.84
2006-07	34.26	51.39	68.52
2007-08	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] As 2006-07.

(c) Immigration Service: Expenditure incurred

	Home Office	£ UK Borders Agency
2003-04	[1]13,499,482	—
2004-05	—	14,184,786
2005-06	—	9,814,901
2006-07	—	8,835,259
2007-08	—	7,158,204

[1] Represents budget for interpreters services for Home Office, including Immigration Service.

(d) Metropolitan police: Expenditure incurred

	Interpreting fees	Interpreting expenses	Interpreting total	Translation fees	£ Total costs language services
2003-04	6,787,041.61	186,597.36	6,973,638.97	501,255.47	7,474,894.44
2004-05	6,390,840.93	250,696.68	6,641,537.61	566,322.39	7,207,860.00
2005-06	8,502,502.62	228,039.56	8,730,542.18	592,037.56	9,322,579.74
2006-07	8,732,733.26	212,229.41	8,944,962.67	681,158.22	9,626,120.89
2007-08	9,269,764.11	225,496.82	9,495,260.93	476,002.14	9,971,263.07

(e) Expenses payable

	Car	*Parking costs*	*Public transport*
Metropolitan police	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
UKBA	23.8p per mile	Actual costs or maximum of £13 in short stay parking	Actual fare based on tickets/receipts provided, most economical route taken and fare over £13.

[1] Figures not available.

Immigration: Iraq

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi nationals living in *(a)* Jordan, *(b)* Syria and *(c)* Iran who have worked under contract with British forces under Operation Telic have (i) applied for and (ii) been granted (A) asylum and (B) residency in the UK since March 2003; and what criteria are used in deciding on such applications. [196188]

Mr. Byrne: The figures requested are not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Local Authorities

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 611W, on immigration: local authorities, how much is available under the transitional costs fund in 2008-09; how many local authorities have submitted claims to the fund; what the value of the claims submitted have been; which local authorities have made claims; what the value of the claim was in each case; and how much had been disbursed to local authorities at the most recent date for which figures are available. [201158]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The financial support available will depend on the claims made by local authorities.

At the present time no payments have been made to any local authority. Support will be made available to individual authorities for a maximum of six months after they have begun to incur qualifying expenditure. Lin Homer will update the Home Affairs Select Committee in the summer.

Internet: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of cybercrime to the economy in 2007-08. [198638]

Jacqui Smith: There is no central estimate of the cost of cybercrime to the economy in 2007-08.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199592]

Mr. Byrne: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999; since that date, no payments have been made to this company.

Lorries: Foreign Companies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the adequacy of police resources for ensuring that operators and drivers of non-UK lorries comply with regulations relating to the haulage industry; and if she will make a statement. [199153]

Mr. Byrne: The deployment of resources to enforce compliance with regulations relating to commercial vehicles, irrespective of whether there operating base is in the UK or elsewhere, is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police.

In addition to the enforcement carried out by the police on commercial vehicles, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has a specific responsibility to help ensure that all commercial vehicles and drivers travelling on our roads comply with the law. Additional funding has been made available to VOSA to enable them to increase significantly the number of checks they make on vehicles engaged in international journeys.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, the hon. Member for Birmingham Hodge Hill, to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Wycombe of 28 February 2008 on visas. [199342]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency (International Group) replied on behalf of the Minister on 8 April 2008.

Migration

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with G6 member states on the European Pact on Migration; and if she will make a statement. [196958]

Jacqui Smith: Home Office Ministers have had discussions on migration in a variety of fora following the G6 Conclusions on a European Pact on Managing Migration in October 2007.

We will continue to hold discussions with G6 and other member states as part of our joint work to strengthen borders, reduce asylum shopping and combat illegal migration.

Missing Persons

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support is available to relatives or friends of missing persons; and if she will make a statement. [199014]

Mr. McNulty: Help and support is available for the families and friends of missing people from family liaison officers of the investigating police force, the voluntary sector and the National Policing Improvement Agency's (NPIA) Missing Persons Bureau (MPB).

The MPB was launched on 1 April 2008 and works closely with the charity Missing People. Missing People, and a number of other similar charities, work with young runaways, missing and unidentified people, their families, friends and others who are, or have been, affected by the issue of missing people.

Missing People is part funded by the Government (approximately £700,000 this year). This service includes support, advice, guidance and practical help to the families of those who have gone missing through:

a dedicated national 24-hour support helpline for families and friends of missing people;

case publicity via poster campaigns, internet appeals, a network of national media partners and features;

a national 24-hour confidential sightings service;

Runaway Helpline—a 24-hour confidential helpline for runaways, offering help and advice to young people who have run away from home or care, or who have been forced to leave;

Message Home—a 24-hour free confidential telephone service that offers help, advice and support to adults who are missing.

Identification—a specialist service offered by Missing People to support police, coroners, hospitals and social services to resolve cases of unidentified people (alive or dead).

Support is also available for families of abducted children from other charities including Reunite. Reunite provide advice, information and support to parents/guardians and family members, who have had a child abducted or who fear child abduction. Reunite also provide advice to parents who may have abducted their child as well as advising on international contact issues.

The MPB acts as the centre for the exchange of information connected with the search for missing people nationally and internationally. This includes the co-ordination between police forces, relevant agencies, charities and other organisations working in the field of missing people. The Bureau already works closely with Government Departments, including the Home Office and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Morgan Stanley

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to Morgan Stanley in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each such payment was. [199682]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office's accounting systems do not hold any records of payments to Morgan Stanley.

National Refugee Integration Forum

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the National Refugee Integration Forum was dissolved; and if she will make a statement. [201001]

Mr. Byrne: The National Refugee Integration Forum was wound up in October 2006 as part of a wider programme of changes to stakeholder engagement within immigration which were announced in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate reform plan published earlier that year.

Offenders: Deportation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* was spent on the facilitated returns scheme in 2006-07 and *(b)* has been spent in 2007-08. [193231]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The Facilitated Returns Scheme has been operating since October 2006. Between 1 November 2006 and 31 October 2007 around £350,000 has been spent on the scheme, including administrative costs.

Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 807W, on official residences, on what date the property was valued at £2.4 million. [199510]

Mr. Byrne: The property was valued as at 31 March 2006.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 807W, on official residences, if she will provide a breakdown of the £4,500 incurred in costs. [199511]

Mr. Byrne: The breakdown is £3,000 for utilities and the balance for council tax. For completeness the annual rent for the property continued to be paid during this period, this amounted to £7,100 per year.

Police Stations

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what information she holds on the number of police stations per 1,000 people in *(a)* non-rural and *(b)* rural areas in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement; [199575]

(2) what information she holds on the number of police stations in each police force area in each year since 1997. [199576]

Mr. McNulty: The Department does not hold the information requested centrally, and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police Stations: Greater London

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which police stations in the Metropolitan Police force area are planned to be closed; [199332]

(2) which police stations in the Metropolitan Police force area are planning to open to the public for fewer hours per week than at present. [199333]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average time taken by a police officer in England to complete the administrative requirements relating to an arrest, timed from the moment of arrest. [198452]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available. The number of forms and documents needed to be completed by a police officer is dependent on the circumstances of the arrest and the complexity of each individual case.

Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Review of Policing, published in February this year, addressed the issue of police-related bureaucracy. The review made a number of recommendations on this subject, including a review of police operational codes of practice, the expansion of mobile data, a more in-depth analysis of risk (and how this in turn may impact on bureaucratic tendencies in the service), and the further streamlining of criminal justice processes. My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, has endorsed Sir Ronnie's report and expects his recommendations to form the next drive against unnecessary bureaucracy in the police service.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of crime reduction on the police funding formula in each of the last 10 years. [199328]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 763W.

Police: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department has spent on the website www.policecouldyou.co.uk in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception; [200379]

(2) how much was spent on the website www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception. [200381]

Mr. Byrne: It is not possible to extract the costs of this website from the others we manage.

Police: Public Places

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on improving the visibility of the police in public places. [198574]

Mr. McNulty: As the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Association of Police Authorities (APA) have announced, from 1 April 2008 every area in England and Wales has a dedicated neighbourhood policing team providing an accessible and visible police presence in local communities.

This marks a new era in policing where neighbourhood policing teams work with communities to agree local priorities for action, such as anti-social behaviour, and solve local problems. Teams will be contactable by phone, through community meetings or by accessing their details through a new website.

The Home Office has worked closely with ACPO and the wider police service, and partners, to deliver neighbourhood policing, and will continue to do so in order to embed this style of policing into everyday policing activity.

Police: Recruitment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many job applications were received by each police force in each year since 1997; and how many people each recruited in each year; [198578]

(2) how many *(a)* applications to join and *(b)* recruits there were for each police force in each year since 1997. [195615]

Mr. McNulty: The information is as follows:

(a) The requested data on applications have been collected since 2002-03 and where available are given in Table 1. The data provided here are management information and as such it is important to note that they are provisional and have not been subjected to the usual quality assurance practices.

(b) The requested data on recruits have been collected since 2002-03 and are given in Table 2.

Table 1: Number[1] of formal application forms[2] received by police forces from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	916	446	n/a	2121	2,062
Bedfordshire	1,940	n/a	635	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	1,511	n/a	n/a	783	n/a

Table 1: Number[1] of formal application forms[2] received by police forces from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Cheshire	4,532	n/a	779	n/a	1,666
Cleveland	1,464	n/a	113	n/a	n/a
Cumbria	1,085	767	105	226	243
Derbyshire	2,884	753	113	n/a	n/a
Devon and Cornwall	3,614	1,203	1,366	1,397	n/a
Dorset	1,224	n/a	n/a	n/a	358
Durham	1,343	n/a	n/a	2,019	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	859	366	n/a	897	n/a
Essex	2,282	2,127	571	925	n/a
Gloucestershire	1,062	245	795	963	n/a
Greater Manchester	n/a	3,642	200	n/a	n/a
Gwent	1,493	1,005	n/a	918	931
Hampshire	5,820	1,349	n/a	1,949	1,766
Hertfordshire	1,992	1,224	333	1,103	679
Humberside	1,349	1,519	n/a	996	n/a
Kent	3,027	n/a	1,401	1,347	n/a
Lancashire	n/a	1,961	984	2,742	n/a
Leicestershire	1,421	1,249	n/a	295	n/a
Lincolnshire	1,289	n/a	284	333	n/a
London, City of	594	449	n/a	415	n/a
Merseyside	3,190	1,331	3,137	n/a	1,729
Metropolitan Police	n/a	4,065	1,160	3,444	1,460
Norfolk	1,206	n/a	674	854	n/a
Northamptonshire	283	384	451	522	273
Northumbria	3,349	1,074	1,941	1,301	n/a
North Wales	2,219	1,234	1,482	705	n/a
North Yorkshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire	2,770	1,104	1,176	n/a	445
South Wales	724	2,204	n/a	1,814	1,102
South Yorkshire	1,300	1,235	807	366	721
Staffordshire	2,043	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	1,352	890	442	1,115	n/a
Surrey	2,345	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	1,051	n/a	1,190	520	n/a
Thames Valley	3,907	2,077	n/a	n/a	n/a
Warwickshire	651	229	572	468	n/a
West Mercia	3,440	1,959	278	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,431	n/a
West Yorkshire	4,087	2,704	2,939	769	1,434
Wiltshire	1,183	432	499	n/a	n/a

[1] Provisional management information data collected for planning purposes only. Data has not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces) and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.
[2] Does not include informal expressions of interest. Some forces no longer send out and receive paper application packs and instead receive electronic applications via the www.policecouldyou.co.uk website. Where forces receive application packs from other means it is not always possible to separately identify the number of paper application packs received, and in such cases forces have been instructed to return a zero response.
n/a = not available. Force was not able to supply data at the time of collection.

Table 2: Police officer recruits[1] (FTE)[2] to police forces from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	40	198	93	123	90
Bedfordshire	89	178	106	54	45
Cambridgeshire	76	107	99	104	34
Cheshire	141	153	105	121	107
Cleveland	129	138	83	114	79
Cumbria	63	113	51	55	58
Derbyshire	146	146	64	66	84
Devon and Cornwall	138	131	200	255	98
Dorset	72	86	76	102	64
Durham	21	104	79	71	42
Essex	40	225	276	224	306
Gloucestershire	53	98	60	70	81
Greater Manchester	113	978	233	277	362
Hampshire	267	282	204	244	249
Hertfordshire	202	279	155	173	185
Humberside	56	188	126	93	95
Kent	192	290	193	209	233
Lancashire	240	311	148	196	165

Table 2: Police officer recruits[1] (FTE)[2] to police forces from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Leicestershire	116	245	123	96	85
Lincolnshire	64	44	59	54	66
London, City of	44	52	39	41	30
Merseyside	101	192	389	161	312
Metropolitan Police	2,434	2,971	1,886	1,050	1,249
Norfolk	71	56	77	55	49
Northamptonshire	45	99	109	115	68
Northumbria	151	197	159	122	87
North Yorkshire	99	82	71	110	85
Nottinghamshire	89	138	138	54	46
South Yorkshire	103	261	205	148	164
Staffordshire	27	123	108	81	95
Suffolk	81	113	37	45	77
Surrey	92	116	130	124	157
Sussex	139	320	229	236	167
Thames Valley	306	479	361	374	219
Warwickshire	57	51	59	69	66
West Mercia	235	88	90	88	110
West Midlands	478	408	476	442	445
West Yorkshire	277	337	566	176	271
Wiltshire	62	120	70	50	28
Dyfed-Powys	7	53	35	54	47
Gwent	45	78	102	80	69
North Wales	77	66	71	51	44
South Wales	180	173	118	122	118

[1] Recruits included those officers joining as police standard Direct Recruits and those who were previously Special constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.
[2] Full time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the practice of requiring parish councils to pay for police patrols in rural areas. [199719]

Mr. McNulty: Parish councils and others write to me from time to time about a variety of funding issues but I have placed no requirement on them to pay for police patrols.

Police authorities set their own budgets, drawing on local revenues in addition to Government grant. They may seek further funding from the partners with whom they work, including parish councils, as evidence of their commitment to the partnership approach which is an essential element in the successful implementation of neighbourhood policing.

Police: Stun Guns

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures govern the use of Taser-style electric shock weapons by police; and what training police officers are required to receive before using such weapons. [196422]

Mr. Coaker: Following a trial in five forces in 2003, the Home Secretary agreed to allow Chief Officers of all forces in England and Wales to make the laser available to authorised firearms officers as a less lethal alternative for use in situations where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms.

Following a request by ACPO my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary agreed in July 2007 that laser may be deployed by an authorised firearms officer beyond situations in which a firearms authority would be granted. In these cases, officers would be facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subjects.

My right hon. Friend also agreed to a 12 month trial, from 1 September 2007, in 10 selected forces of use of laser in similar circumstances by specially trained units who are not authorised firearms officers.

Full policy and operational guidance documents on the use of laser has been issued by ACPO, and there is a rigorous selection procedure for officers which is fully set out in the ACPO guidance. Laser is only issued to specially trained officers who have successfully completed approved ACPO sponsored training in the use of the device. All officers will be required to successfully complete annual refresher training.

Ports: Arrests

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* detained and *(b)* arrested at UK ports in the last five years. [199143]

Jacqui Smith: Information pertaining to the number of people detained at UK ports is not fully available

due to a change in our data collation systems in 2003. Figures relating to 2003 do not therefore reflect the full year.

Information relating to persons detained at ports falls into two areas: Those who do not immediately satisfy the Immigration Officer of their eligibility to enter, or who are subject to further examination, and those who are further detained pending the outcome of their application or following refusal of leave to enter.

In the interests of completeness, figures have been provided in relation to persons detained in order to be subjected to further examination.

Totals of persons initially detained (at the arrivals control) are as follows:

	Number
2003	62,088
2004	61,113
2005	48,110
2006	49,392
2007	54,033

The data provided above have been compiled from locally held management information and as such do not represent national statistics. They may therefore be subject to change.

Figures relating to arrests at UK ports are available only from April 2006, as these were not previously recorded centrally. Figures for March 2003-06 relate only to Heathrow and Gatwick, and all figures relate only to arrests by Immigration Crime Teams as follows:

	Heathrow	*Gatwick*	*Number Total*
April 2003 to march 2004	206	160	366
April 2004 to March 2005	410	196	606
April 2005 to March 2006	725	338	1,163
April 2006 to March 20057	—	—	1,321
April 2007 to February 2008	—	—	957

Numbers of persons arrested by HM Revenue and Customs are available only from April 2005 until March 2007, and are as follows:

	Number
April 2005 to March 2006	2,152
April 2006 to March 2006	2,222

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sentence-expired foreign prisoners are held in detention under immigration powers; and how many have been held in such detention in each year since 1997. [193823]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee in her letter of 20 November that there were 1,500 foreign national prisoners that were detained under immigration powers. She will continue to update the Committee with the most robust and accurate information available as requested. She has also explained in her letters to the Committee that information prior to April 2006 is not available due to the quality of management information that is held. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

South Yorkshire Police: Accidents

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many South Yorkshire police vehicles have been involved in an accident while attending an emergency call in each of the last five years. [199442]

Mr. McNulty: The data provided here are a supplementary series collected on behalf and released with the approval of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). These data are normally used for inspection purposes only.

The available data on road traffic collisions on public roads during immediate/emergency response and police pursuit have been collected centrally from 2002-03 and are provided in the following table.

Road traffic collisions during immediate/emergency response and police pursuit for South Yorkshire, from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Number
2002-03	98
2003-04	95
2004-05	52
2005-06	15
2006-07	52

Terrorism Act 2000

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of offences under the Terrorism Act 2000 since it came into force. [198629]

Jacqui Smith: The Terrorism Act (TACT) 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001. Statistics compiled from police records are available on the Home Office website from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2007.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/?view=Standard

For this period, there were a total of 1,228 arrests; of which 1,165 arrests were made under the Terrorism Act 2000 and 63 arrests under other legislation, where the investigation was conducted as a Terrorist investigation. Of the total 1,228 arrested, 132 were charged with terrorism legislation offences only; 109 were charged with terrorism legislation offences and other criminal offences and 195 charged under other legislation, including murder, grievous bodily harm, firearms, explosives offences, fraud, and false documents.

Of those charged, there were 41 Terrorism Act 2000 convictions and 183 convictions under other legislation, including murder, explosives offences (including conspiracies), grievous bodily harm, firearms offences, fraud, false documents offences, and other offences (including 12 cautions). Figures are subject to change as cases go through the system. The Home Office is currently working with the police to review how terrorism statistics are collated.

In addition to the above, statistics on the number of convictions in significant terrorist cases are available

for 2007 and 2008. In 2007, 37 individuals were convicted in 15 significant terrorist cases. So far in 2008, 21 people have been convicted in seven significant terrorist cases. There are a range of powers available under other non-TACT legislation, to arrest and charge individuals in connection with terrorist or terrorist related activity. Charges and convictions can and are brought under the most-appropriate legislation.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times she has met home affairs front-bench spokespersons from other political parties to discuss her counter-terrorism proposals since 1st July 2007. [199429]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has met the Conservative Shadow Home Secretary and the Liberal Democrat Home Affairs spokesperson three times to discuss counter-terrorism proposals since 1 July 2007.

Translation Costs

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 785W, on translation costs, how much was spent on translating Home Office publications into languages other than English in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* in 2007-08 to date. [188082]

Mr. McNulty: It is not possible to provide this information on the basis of disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency: Wales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the new UK Border Agency will be based in *(a)* Pembroke Dock, *(b)* Fishguard, *(c)* Swansea, *(d)* Holyhead and *(e)* Wales. [200212]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The number of staff employed by the former Borders and Immigration Agency was 18,154 at the end of March 2008. This number is the actual active staff at 31 March 2008 and replaces earlier projected figures. Of this 176 were geographically located in Wales.

On 1 April 2008 the UK Border Agency was created and 2,303 staff transferred from UK Visas. More than 4,000 further staff are expected to join UKBA from HM Revenue and Customs and the final staff total is expected to be around 25,000 but figures are not yet finalised.

Video Conferencing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will set a target to increase the use of video conferencing by her Department's officials as an alternative to staff travelling to meetings. [200483]

Mr. Byrne: There are no plans to introduce such a target, however it is now standard practice to put in at least one set of video conferencing (VC) equipment in Home Office properties.

Work Permits

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of illegal migrants employed in the UK without a valid work permit. [199167]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* Since the phasing out of border controls in 1994, no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and that includes illegal workers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As one of the Government's 10 substantive changes to the border and immigration system in 2008 we will count in and out the majority of foreign nationals. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a large-scale programme of reform to border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many employers in the residential and care home industries were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* fined for employing workers without valid work permits in each of the last three years; [199163]

(2) how many agricultural employers were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* fined for employing workers without valid work permits in each of the last three years; [199164]

(3) how many people were *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* prosecuted for and *(c)* convicted of working illegally in the UK without a valid work permit in each of the last three years; [199165]

(4) how much was collected in fines from employers of workers without valid work permits in each of the last three years; [199166]

Mr. Byrne: There are no centrally collated reports on how many employers have been prosecuted specifically within the residential care home and agricultural industries.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2004 in England and Wales on an annual basis in table 6.7 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics Command Paper. Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www/homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

No data are held centrally on the total amount of fines collected from employers prosecuted for employing those without a valid work permit.

Workers Registration Scheme: Greater London

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have registered on the Workers Registration Scheme in each London borough in each year since the scheme was introduced. [199301]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office only records the regional distribution of workers from A8 countries when they first registered to the Workers Registration Scheme. Data by local authority were published in February 2008 in concert with the Accession Monitoring Report (AMR) on the Local Government Analysis and Research (LGAR) website.

The table shows the last published available data by local authority for the number of workers when they first registered to the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) in each London borough since the scheme was introduced.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Local authority	*May 2004 to March 2006*	*April to December 2006*	*January to December 2007*
Barking and Dagenham	250	85	135
Barnet	3,170	580	1,155
Bexley	285	85	130
Brent	2,160	685	1,070
Bromley	515	155	220
Camden	5,435	1,640	2,335
City of London	1,955	710	915
Croydon	1,225	390	610
Ealing	3,745	1,310	1,970
Enfield	1,175	465	625
Greenwich	750	340	485
Hackney	1,255	330	540
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,555	1,120	1,380
Haringey	1,650	410	580
Harrow	1,410	500	810
Havering	285	220	260
Hillingdon	2,785	875	1,355
Hounslow	1,785	670	1,045
Islington	1,715	505	745
Kensington and Chelsea	2,440	595	820
Kingston upon Thames	705	205	285
Lambeth	1,060	420	525
Lewisham	625	150	195
Merton	1,280	395	535
Newham	1,045	335	330
Redbridge	625	635	750
Richmond upon Thames	1,190	340	500
Southwark	3,110	845	1,220
Sutton	345	115	160
Tower Hamlets	1,515	585	845
Waltham Forest	900	275	505
Wandsworth	1,890	515	630
Westminster	11,745	3,270	4,260
Total	62,575	19,775	27,920

Notes:
1. 98 per cent. of approved nationwide applications currently have an accurate postcode. Applications where postcodes could not be matched to the Office of National Statistics database are excluded from this data-set.
2. Figures based on Employers address and the date the application is approved, rather than the date on the application form as used in the Accession Monitoring Report.
3. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
4. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to total shown.
5. The table presents a gross (cumulative) figure for the number of workers applying to the WRS. The figures are not current: an individual who has registered to work and who leaves employment is not required to de-register, so some of those counted will have left the employment for which they registered and indeed some are likely to have left the UK.

Workers Registration Scheme: Southwark

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people registered on the Workers Registration Scheme in the London Borough of Southwark since the scheme was introduced. [199302]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office only records the regional distribution of workers from A8 countries when they first registered to the Workers Registration Scheme. Data by local authority was published in February 2008 in concert with the Accession Monitoring Report (AMR) on the Local Government Analysis and Research (LGAR) website.

The table shows the last published available data for London borough of Southwark for the number of workers when they first registered to the Workers Registration Scheme (WRS) since the scheme was introduced.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Local authority	*May 2004 to March 2006*	*April to December 2006*	*January to December 2007*
Southwark	3,110	845	1,220

Notes:
1. 98 per cent. of approved nationwide applications currently have an accurate postcode. Applications where postcodes could not be matched to the Office of National Statistics database are excluded from this data-set.
2. Figures based on employers address and the date the application is approved, rather than the date on the application form as used and published in the Accession Monitoring Report.
3. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
4. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to total shown.
5. The table presents a gross (cumulative) figure for the number of workers applying to the WRS. The figures are not current: an individual who has registered to work and who leaves employment is not required to de-register, so some of those counted will have left the employment for which they registered and indeed some are likely to have left the UK.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Astronomy: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much full economic costing funding the Science and Technology Facility Council's Grant Review Panel recommended to support sustainable research in the 2007 round of astronomy grants; and how much funding was provided. [200291]

Ian Pearson: STFC's Astronomy Grants Review Panel recommended the award of grants that included a full economic cost (FEC) element of £4.88 million. On receipt of this request the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) allocated £4.88 million of full economic cost contribution towards the cost of new astronomy grant projects in the 2007 funding round.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of recent changes in funding for Jodrell Bank on UK capacity in astronomy and physics *(a)* education and *(b)* research. [200622]

Ian Pearson: Jodrell Bank Observatory is owned and run by the University of Manchester. It is involved in a variety of radio astronomy activities including the e-Merlin project. E-Merlin is the development of a network of seven UK radio telescopes run by the Jodrell Bank Observatory and funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) in partnership with the North West Development Agency and the University of Manchester. The STFC has recently undertaken a review of all its existing programmes to make sure they are delivering, or will deliver, the anticipated science output, and that they continue to represent value for money. The initial results of this review have been subject to consultation with the relevant scientific communities, and STFC is currently considering the responses it has received. STFC has yet to take a decision on its future level of support for e-Merlin. However, STFC has made it clear that the e-Merlin project is part of its strategy for radio astronomy and that it is in discussion with its partners about the issues raised by the review.

Counselling: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2431W, on counselling: finance, if he will bring forward the review of exempted subjects from December 2008 to summer 2008. [201894]

Bill Rammell: No. We want to keep a close eye on how demand to study key subjects evolves over time, but this has to be evidence-based. As we have already informed Parliament, the first such review will take place starting in December 2008, in the light of entry data for the 2008-09 academic year. Since the review will look specifically at what happens as people enter higher education this autumn, we do not intend to bring the review forward from December.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201727]

Mr. Lammy: The Department have received a total of 27 requests since July 2007. Of these, 17 were responded to within 20 days and one within 40 days. The remaining nine requests are currently in progress. Of these nine cases, seven are new requests, one is at Internal Review stage and one is at Information Commissioner's stage. None of the cases in progress are currently overdue.

With regards to exemptions, seven cases were withheld in full or withheld in part. The following exemptions were cited:

Sec 27: 1
Sec 35: 5
Sec 36: 1
Sec 40: 1
Sec 43: 5

Higher Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make an estimate of the cost to the public purse of making the support available to part-time first degree undergraduates equivalent to that of full-time first degree undergraduates in respect of *(a)* grants, *(b)* student loans and *(c)* bursaries; and if he will make a statement. [196032]

Bill Rammell: There are around 200,000 part-time first degree undergraduates compared to around one million full-time. To estimate the cost to the public purse of giving part-time students the full-time package of support is complicated due to their diverse nature. We can give very broad estimates based on the assumptions we hold for full-time students and replicating the exact same package of support. This enables us to estimate grant costs in the region of £250 million and loan costs also in the region of £250 million per year. We are not able to estimate the cost to

the public purse of bursaries as institutions determine the eligibility criteria and are responsible for payments.

These estimates assume that part-time students are identical to full-time students in every respect except they are part-time. They are highly dependent on uncertain factors such as household incomes on which student support is assessed, eligibility for and take-up of support, level of fees charged and earnings following completion of the course, all of which have been assumed the same as for full-time students. The support has not been pro-rated, but if part-time students take twice as long to complete their course compared to a full-time student the costs would be around a half.

This Government were the first to introduce statutory support for part-time students, in 2000-01. In 2006-07, we introduced the most generous package of financial support ever for part-time students in EnglanJ. This included increasing the maximum fee grant by 27 per cent. and an above-inflation increase in the income threshold for receiving this support. The part-time package is different from the support available to full-time students because it has been designed to meet the particular needs of part-time students. Unlike full-time students, many part-time students are in full-time employment —two thirds according to the Woodley report, published at the end of 2004. That report also found that 36 per cent. of part-time students receive full fee support from their employer.

We must ensure that statutory student support is carefully focussed to achieve maximum benefit.

Languages: Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which English universities require a foreign language GCSE or equivalent qualification as a condition of admission for UK-domiciled undergraduates. [202005]

Bill Rammell: That information is not collected centrally by the Department. As independent bodies, higher education institutions are free to set their own entry requirements for individual courses. A large number of institutions are now providing Entry Profiles for their courses, to enable potential applicants to clarify the entry criteria for any courses that they may be interested in. It is important that HE institutions publicise the availability of Entry Profiles and that careers advisers take them into account when advising young people on their Options choices at age 13-14.

Learning and Skills Council: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on administering the Learning and Skills Council in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [201123]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) spent £226.8 million on administration in financial year 2006-07; the latest 12 months for which figures are available. This includes expenditure on direct staff pay costs; other staffing costs including training and accommodation; and asset depreciation costs.

The LSC's Grant Letter published in October 2006 set out administration funding for 2007-08 of £219.5 million. The final audited expenditure figures for that year will be published before summer recess.

The LSC's administration costs have fallen steadily from 4.6 per cent. of total funding in 2001-02, to 1.9 per cent. of its total budget in 2007-08. The latest LSC Grant Letter published in November 2007, shows that further administration efficiency savings will be delivered over the course of the next three years. By 2010-11 the administration budget of the LSC will have fallen to £205.7 million which represents 1.6 per cent. of the total budget of the LSC in that year.

Overseas Students: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of students from other EU member states received financial assistance from his Department for *(a)* tuition fees and *(b)* living costs in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [202075]

Bill Rammell: EC nationals are eligible for tuition fee support only, provided that they have been ordinarily resident in the EEA and Switzerland for the three years prior to the start of their course.

The following table shows the number of new and continuing students in each academic year and those who received tuition fee support. Prior to 2006-07, this support was in the form of a means tested grant. Since 2006-07, new students were eligible to apply for a non-means tested loan.

10 countries acceded to the EC in May 2004, which has resulted in an increase in student numbers.

EU domiciled students studying in England by support received

	EU domiciled students	*Students receiving fee grants*	*Students receiving fee loans*	*Percentage receiving fee grants*	*Percentage receiving fee loans*
1999-2000	79,600	20,100	—	25	—
2000-01	79,300	23,600	—	30	—
2001-02	73,900	19,100	—	26	—
2002-03	72,500	17,400	—	24	—
2003-04	70,800	15,700	—	22	—
2004-05	78,400	16,400	—	21	—
2005-06	82,600	17,000	—	21	—

EU domiciled students studying in England by support received

	EU domiciled students	*Students receiving fee grants*	*Students receiving fee loans*	*Percentage receiving fee grants*	*Percentage receiving fee loans*
2006-07	86,500	10,600	8,300	12	10

Sources:
1. Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures are on a snapshot basis as of 1 December for comparability across the years.
2. Student Loans Company (SLC). Since 2006-07 a student may be in receipt of either a grant (continuing students) or a loan (new students).

Only EEA and Swiss migrant workers and certain family members who have been ordinarily resident in the EEA and Switzerland and EC nationals who have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands may be eligible to the full support package.

Physics: Finance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the Science and Technology Facilities Council on the level of funding for research in physics and astronomy; and if he will make a statement. [200623]

Ian Pearson: The Secretary of State and I have had a number of discussions with the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) about research in physics and astronomy.

The STFC published its Delivery Plan on 11 December 2007 following its Science Budget Allocation which amounted to an additional £185 million over the CSR period and a total budget of £1.9 billion over that period.

STFC Council has made clear that the funding for physics exploitation grants will remain broadly level in this financial year (2008/09). Bill Wakeham, Vice Chancellor of Southampton University, has been asked to lead a review of the health of physics research in the UK, as part of a RCUK review of the continued health of key research disciplines. The review panel is expected to report to the RCUK Executive Group in September, and the results of the review will be published shortly afterwards.

STFC also announced that funding for Particle Physics grants will be 43 per cent. higher in 2008/09 than it was in 2005/06, while in Nuclear Physics, a grant round now in progress will provide an increase of 78 per cent. in 2008/09 compared to 2005/06.

STFC has also announced that support for astronomy grants will be 67 per cent. higher in 2008/09 than in 2005/06.

Students: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will include current undergraduate students in plans for increased maintenance grants under the Government's new student finance package; and if he will make a statement. [180910]

Bill Rammell: The Government's plan for increasing the income thresholds for full and partial entitlement to maintenance grants, as part of the changes to the support package that were announced on 5 July 2007, will apply only to students who will be entering higher education in or after September 2008. We have no plans to extend this change to cover existing students. The fundamental changes to the system that we introduced in 2006, which included the deferment of fees by taking out a loan, rather than paying them up-front, offered a very attractive support package, and this continues to be available to current students.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what mechanisms his Department plans to introduce to ensure EU-domiciled students are subject to the new funding arrangements for people who are studying for equivalent or lower qualifications. [199657]

Bill Rammell: There will be amendments to the appropriate regulations to reflect that all students, including EU-domiciled students, who wish to study an equivalent or lower level course of higher education in England will be subject to the new funding arrangements.

The overwhelming majority of both EU and UK students are honest and will follow the rules in good faith. But there will be mechanisms to prevent deliberate fraud as there are under the current system and these will operate in a way that sets an appropriate balance between the need for regulation and the desire to avoid an overly bureaucratic system. In all cases, HEFCE will work with institutions to audit fundable student numbers and final HEFCE funding will be determined on the basis of audited returns and through a robust audit process. The Student Loans Company will be reviewing its processes to cover the new arrangements and ensure that mechanisms are in place to deter and detect fraudulent applications.

Students: Grants

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many undergraduates *(a)* qualified for maintenance grants of (i) £2,835, (ii) £2,2002, (iii) £998, (iv) £524 and (v) £50 and *(b)* received no grant in the most recent period for which figures are available; [194196]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 194196, tabled on 11 March 2008, on undergraduate maintenance grants; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [202022]

Bill Rammell: The figures in the question apply for the upcoming academic year. Therefore as yet no one is receiving grants on this basis. I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member, this was due to an administrative error.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people making repayments of a student loan are yet to receive

an updated statement, including details of repayments made in the 2004-05 tax year, due to delays in HM Revenue and Customs processing employer returns for that tax year; and if he will make a statement. [188035]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company updates individual accounts and provides borrowers with an updated statement within a month of receiving details of borrowers' repayments from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Repayments are linked to income, so it is not possible to know precisely how many borrowers have earned over the income threshold during a particular financial year until all employers' annual returns for student loan borrowers have been received, and the student loan repayments for every individual borrower have been processed. For the tax year 2004-05 HMRC has passed to the SLC repayment information for some 649,148 borrowers, against a projected range of 600,000 to 650,000 borrowers.

JUSTICE

Absent Voting: Overseas Residence

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many postal ballot papers were issued to UK citizens residing overseas during the last *(a)* local elections in England and *(b)* general election. [201146]

Bridget Prentice: Locally appointed returning officers are responsible for the conduct of elections and are responsible for storing and collecting any data arising from these elections. As such we do not collect or hold data centrally on the number of postal ballot papers which were issued to UK citizens residing overseas during the last local and general elections.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many postal ballot papers issued to UK citizens residing overseas in the last *(a)* local elections in England and *(b)* general election were (i) returned and (ii) rejected by acting returning officers for reasons of lateness. [201147]

Bridget Prentice: Locally appointed returning officers are responsible for the conduct of elections and are responsible for collecting and storing any data arising from these elections. As such, we do not collect or hold data centrally on either the number of ballot papers which were returned by UK citizens living abroad at the last local and general elections or the number of postal ballots from UK citizens overseas voters which were rejected by acting returning officers for reasons of lateness.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what period of time was provided for postal ballot papers to be *(a)* issued and *(b)* delivered to the address of UK citizens residing overseas during the last (i) local elections in England and (ii) general elections. [201148]

Bridget Prentice: There was no prescribed last date for the issue or delivery of postal votes to UK citizens residing overseas prior to either the last local or general elections in England. Postal ballot papers may be printed and prepared for delivery once the identity of the candidates is known, following the close of the period for nominations. The earliest date that postal votes will be issued and delivered at local and general elections in England to existing postal voters is 11 working days before polling day, which is the last date in which they can cancel or vary their arrangements. Postal ballots can be dispatched to new postal vote applicants as soon as practicable after their applications have been granted.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the period of time given for UK citizens residing abroad to *(a)* receive and *(b)* return completed postal ballot papers during the last (i) local elections in England and (ii) general election; and if he will make a statement. [201149]

Bridget Prentice: While no formal assessment has been made we are aware that some UK citizens residing abroad have experienced difficulties with the current period of time given for receiving and returning their completed postal ballot papers for elections in England.

Returning officers are aware of the need to put the Electoral Commission's guidance on issuing postal votes into effect. The guidance (i) stipulates that postal votes should be issued to all who have applied, including long-term postal voters as soon as practicable after the deadline for new applications for postal votes which is 11 working days before the election and (ii) communicates that consideration may also be given to prioritising the issuing of ballot papers that are going outside the UK.

We have and will continue to look at ways in which we can improve the voting process for UK citizens residing abroad. To date our work has included implementing provisions under the Representation of the People Act 2000 to allow overseas voters to vote by post. Previously, such voters were only able to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will increase the period of time given to UK citizens residing abroad to *(a)* receive and *(b)* return completed postal ballot papers during (i) local elections in England and (ii) general elections; and if he will make a statement. [201150]

Bridget Prentice: There are practical issues including uncertainty in the declaration of the results and outcomes of elections should any change be made to the timing of the postal ballots to overseas voters. Any change would also need to take into account the need to ensure that candidates continue to have reasonable time to put forward their nominations.

Returning officers are aware of the need to put the Electoral Commission's guidance on issuing postal votes into effect. The guidance (i) stipulates that postal votes should be issued to all who have applied, including long-term postal voters as soon as

practicable after the deadline for new applications for postal votes which is 11 working days before the election and (ii) communicates that consideration may also be given to prioritising the issuing of ballot papers that are going outside the UK.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the European Union to ratify the Hague Maintenance Convention. [201973]

Bridget Prentice: The 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and other Forms of Family Maintenance will be ratified by the European Union on behalf of all member states. The European Union has not yet indicated when they expect to be able to do this.

Work is being taken forward on this ratification in tandem with the negotiation of a new EU regulation on maintenance.

Coroners: Mesothelioma

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is issued on the procedure to be followed in coroners' inquiries following a death from mesothelioma. [201448]

Bridget Prentice: In February this year, the Coroners' Society circulated best practice suggestions on mesothelioma investigations in England and Wales to all coroners and made the suggestions available on its website. The best practice suggestions were produced by the British Lung Foundation with the support of the Coroners' Society and my Department.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require *(a)* a specific authority to train police staff in areas where inquiries are conducted by police staff following a death from mesothelioma and *(b)* registered medical practitioners to compile medical evidence prior to a death from mesothelioma which can later be used in a coroners' inquiry. [201456]

Bridget Prentice: The Government's intention are to introduce a Coroners Bill when parliamentary time allows. One of the key aims of the Bill is to deliver an improved service for all bereaved people, including those bereaved as a result of mesothelioma. The Coroners Bill will establish the post of chief coroner who will be responsible, among other things, for establishing national standards and providing guidance and training to coroners and their staff. The chief coroner will not have direct authority over police officer training or the practices of medical practitioners but he or she will work closely with local police authorities to promote best practice and will have authority to intervene if investigations are not conducted in accordance with agreed guidance. Under a reformed system, the new national medical adviser to the chief coroner will provide an additional valuable resource for bringing guidance to the attention of those professionals in the health service who interact with people who are diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Crimes of Violence: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* between 16 and 25 years were convicted of a violent crime in each of the last five years. [202231]

Maria Eagle: The information requested covering convictions for indictable offences within the violence against the person category for the years 2002-06 is provided in the following table.

The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for violence against the person offences by age group, England and Wales, 2002-06[1,2]

	10-15	*16-25*	*26-35*	*36 and over*	*All ages*
2002	2,568	18,193	9,394	7,553	37,708
2003	2,495	18,041	9,490	8,010	38,036
2004	2,606	18,977	9,251	8,315	39,149
2005	2,810	19,928	9,273	8,918	40,929
2006	2,832	20,873	9,150	9,009	41,864

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collections processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Criminal Proceedings: Genetics

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in how many criminal prosecutions low template DNA has been used as evidence; and how many of those prosecutions resulted in conviction; [201449]

(2) in how many criminal prosecutions mixtures of DNA have been used as evidence; and how many of those prosecutions resulted in conviction. [201450]

Maria Eagle: The data held centrally by my Department on the court proceedings database do not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, including the use of DNA, other than the information that may be gleaned from the offence itself. As a result prosecutions involving the use of DNA evidence cannot be identified.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 356-7W, on departmental data protection, if he will include information assurance data on data loss incidents in previous years in his Department's next annual report. [199183]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179, and the written ministerial statement made my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data.

The interim report of 17 December 2007 committed to put in place a programme to examine and improve data handling procedures. An update on this commitment will be included in the final report, expected in spring 2008, and this report will detail the information to be included by Departments on data loss in their annual reports.

Drugs: Sentencing

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 890-2W, on drugs, how many of those sentenced to immediate custody for dealing in *(a)* Class A, *(b)* Class B and *(c)* Class C drugs received the maximum possible prison sentence in each of the last five years. [200625]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is contained in the following table:

Number of persons given the maximum custodial sentence[1] for supplying various classes of controlled drugs, all courts, England and Wales, 2002-06

Controlled drug class	*Number sentenced immediate custody*	*Number of persons Maximum custodial sentence[2]*
2002		
Class A	4,064	—
Class B[3]	174	—
Class C[3]	21	2
2003		
Class A	4,415	—
Class B[3]	201	—
Class C[3]	19	—
2004		
Class A	4,551	1
Class B[3]	723	—
Class C[3]	186	—
2005		
Class A	4,203	1
Class B[3]	331	—
Class C[3]	579	—
2006		
Class A	4,056	—
Class B[3]	232	—
Class C[3]	673	—

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] The maximum custodial sentence for the offences of supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug and for having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply are life for Class A, 14 years for Class B and Class C. In 2003 the maximum penalty for supplying and possessing with intent to supply Class C. drugs was increased from five to 14 years imprisonment..
[3] In January 2004 Cannabis was reclassified from a Class B to a Class C drug.
Notes:
1. All figures are for the offences of supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug and for having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Electoral Register

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he last met the Electoral Commission to discuss its proposals for individual voter registration. [201144]

Bridget Prentice: I meet regularly with the Electoral Commission. My next meeting is on 15 May 2008 and individual registration will be on the agenda.

Our vision for electoral registration is clear: We want to protect the rights of every eligible person to participate in the United Kingdom's democratic process by ensuring complete, accurate and secure electoral registration.

Any new system of electoral registration in GB would need to be tailored to current circumstances, and in particular would need to address the challenge of under registration in GB, where an estimated 3.5 million eligible electors are not registered to vote.

Internet: Data Protection

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of

widespread up-take of internet technologies on the capacity of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to provide for the protection of personal data. [200777]

Mr. Wills: We have commissioned an independent review to consider whether there should be any changes to the legislation governing data protection. The Data Sharing Review, being conducted by the Information Commissioner, Richard Thomas, and Dr. Mark Walport, will publish its report before the end of June. The impact of technology was one of the issues covered by the review's consultation paper and we look forward to seeing the final report. More generally, the Government and the Information Commissioner's Office keep legislation under review in light of ever-increasing technological changes in the field of data protection.

Legal Advice and Assistance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes he plans to make the civil legal aid system as a result of the resolution of the dispute between the Law Society and the Legal Services Commission. [200922]

Maria Eagle: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column WS104. Following constructive discussions between the parties, a settlement has been reached between the Ministry of Justice, the Law Society and the Legal Services Commission in the legal dispute over contracts. This will provide stability and certainty for civil legal aid providers, and heralds a strong commitment from all parties to a new collaborative working approach in the future to address concerns highlighted by representative bodies.

Details of the agreement include a revised arrangement covering historic unrecouped payments on account, increases in some fees paid to civil providers, and new joint collaborative working practices adopted between the parties to ensure that future concerns can be resolved in this way rather than through litigation.

Prisons: Paganism

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to Prison Service Instruction 2005/33, on the practice of paganism in prison, how many wards are available in prisons in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [201871]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

No prison in England and Wales contains a ward.

There are four categories of prison health care. Type 1 provides daytime cover, generally by part time staff, with no in-patient facilities. There are 26 prisons in England, and two prisons in Wales that provide type 1 care.

Type 2 provides daytime with full time staff, with no in-patient facilities. There are 50 prisons in England, and no prisons in Wales that provide type 2 care.

Type 3 provides a health care centre with 24 hour nurse cover, usually with in-patient facilities. There are 56 prisons in England, and three prisons in Wales that provide type 3 care.

Type 4 is as type 3, but also serves as a national or regional assessment centre, used by other prisons. There are five prisons in England, and no prisons in Wales that provide type 4 care.

The management of prisons in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer Question 196558, on the home detention curfew, tabled on 19th March 2008. [202312]

Mr. Straw: I replied to the hon. Member for Harborough's question on 24 April 2008, *Official report*, columns 2251-52W. I apologise for the delay.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* operational and *(b)* certified normal capacity is of each (i) young offender institution and (ii) secure training centre. [201647]

Mr. Hanson: The operational capacity and in use certified normal capacity for each young offender and juvenile[1] institution at the end of March 2008 is shown in table A. Young offenders held in adult categorised prisons are not included.

Table A

Prison	*Operational capacity*	*In use certified normal accommodation*
Aylesbury	444	437
Brinsford	497	473
Castington	410	400
Deerbolt	453	453
Feltham	762	762
Glen Parva	808	668
Hindley	523	523
Lancaster Farms	517	480
Northallerton	252	153
Portland	577	539
Reading	281	184
Rochester	392	392
Stoke Heath	678	562

Table A

Prison	*Operational capacity*	*In use certified normal accommodation*
Swinfen Hall	620	600
Thorn Cross	322	322
Ashfield[1]	400	400
Huntercombe[1]	365	360
Warren Hill[1]	222	222
Wennington[1]	162	160
Wetherby[1]	384	360

The Youth Justice Board does not express levels of accommodation in the requested format. The number of beds required to be made available by secure training centres is shown in table B.

Table B

Secure training centre	*Number of beds*
Hassockfield	58
Medway	76
Oakhill	80
Rainsbrook	87

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the staff to inmate ratio of each *(a)* young offender institution and *(b)* secure training centre was at the latest date for which figures are available. [201648]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the overall staff to prisoner ratio and unified staff to prisoner ratio for each young offender and juvenile[1] institution at the end of March 2008. Young offenders held in adult categorised prisons are not included. Unified staff relates to those staff that are officer or governor grades.

Prison	*Prisoner population*	*Total staff in post*	*Total staff to prisoner ratio*	*Total unified staff*	*Unified staff to prisoner ratio*
Aylesbury	442	327	1 : 1.35	193	1 : 2.29
Brinsford	442	431	1 : 1.03	257	1 : 1.72
Castington	375	383	1 : 0.98	235	1 : 1.60
Deerbolt	444	362	1 : 1.23	192	1 : 2.31
Feltham	587	779	1 : 0.75	421	1 : 1.39
Glen Parva	804	510	1 : 1.58	276	1 : 2.91
Hindley	497	429	1 : 1.16	244	1 : 2.04
Lancaster Farms	494	424	1 : 1.17	263	1 : 1.88
Northallerton	232	139	1 : 1.67	70	1 : 3.31
Portland	555	418	1 : 1.33	223	1 : 2.49
Reading	245	225	1 : 1.09	122	1 : 2.01
Rochester	389	328	1 : 1.19	197	1 : 1.97
Stoke Heath	644	473	1 : 1.36	264	1 : 2.44
Swinfen Hall	619	415	1 : 1.49	217	1 : 2.85
Thorn Cross	230	218	1 : 1.06	122	1 : 1.89
Huntercombe[1]	347	288	1 : 1.20	162	1 : 2.14
Warren Hill[1]	213	248	1 : 0.86	148	1 : 1.44
Werrington[1]	138	174	1 : 0.79	90	1 : 1.53
Wetherby[1]	321	336	1 : 0.96	185	1 : 1.74

Youth Justice Board do not set precise staff to prisoner ratios for secure training centres (STCs); instead, they agree with providers the minimum starting levels necessary to ensure effective supervision. Broadly speaking, the minimum staffing levels are three members of custody staff to young people living in a group of eight and two members of custody staff to young people living in a group of six.

The figures for prison establishments and STCs are not directly comparable. The figures for prisons relate to all staff employed in the establishment, while the ratio for STCs relates only to staff engaging directly with offenders.

Young Offender Institutions: Education

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of those in each *(a)* young offender institution and *(b)* secure training centre were in education at the latest date for which figures are available. [202023]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service does not centrally collate education data at prisoner level. The following table shows the provisional average number of hours spent in educational activity per week per prisoner in young offender and juvenile institutions in 2007-08. Young offenders held in prisons categorised as adult are not included.

Prison	Average number of hours spent in educational activity
Aylesbury	10.2
Brinsford	11.0
Castington	11.8
Deerbolt	11.1
Feltham	10.9
Glen Parva	8.7
Hindley	17.3
Lancaster Farms	12.2
Northallerton	14.7
Portland	7.6
Reading	8.5
Rochester	6.0
Stoke Heath	10.3
Swinfen Hall	10.8
Ashfield	20.6
Huntercombe	16.9
Warren Hill	19.6
Werrington	26.0
Wetherby	15.6

Each of the four secure training centres (STCs) in accordance with STC Rules 1998 ensure that each trainee participates in education or training courses for at least 25 hours a week, except when on authorised absence such us attending court appearances or sickness.

Young Offender Institutions: Telephones

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of inmates in each *(a)* young offender institution and *(b)* secure training centre has daily access to a telephone to communicate with family. [202026]

Maria Eagle: This information is not available for prisoners in young offender institutions (YOIs). However, all prisoners must be given access to telephones during association and other such times that can be facilitated by each prison's regime. The time available for prisoners to use telephones must not be less than two hours each day.

All trainees in Secure Training Centres have daily access to telephones.

Young Offender Institutions: Violence

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of *(a)* inmate on inmate and *(b)* inmate on staff violence were reported in each (i) young offender institution and (ii) secure training centre in each of the last five years. [202027]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

(i) Assaults in Young Offender Institutions

The information requested is set out in the following table, but is subject to important qualifications. The Prison Service incident reporting system processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The statistics provide a good indication of overall numbers, but should not be interpreted as absolute. Assault data are complex and may include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact incidents. Information on assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. In a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: Prisoner on Prisoner, Prisoner on Officer, Other (including miscellaneous assault information) and Prisoner on Other. Rises or falls in reported numbers from one year to the next are not a good indicator of underlying trend for a particular prison. There have also been improvements in reporting over the years, and this is reflected in the table.

(a) Prisoner on prisoner

Prison Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Ashfield	271	304	500	625	653
Aylesbury	26	21	78	80	79
Brinsford	304	326	344	187	187
Castington	312	384	361	360	385
Deerbolt	167	205	164	152	160
Feltham	569	576	549	476	427
Glen Parva	241	230	269	341	364
Hindley	177	63	112	348	498
Huntercombe	77	79	95	184	280
Lancaster Farms	[1]17	185	435	363	357
Northallerton	82	84	104	82	100
Onley	509	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Portland	61	125	154	127	192
Reading	23	25	76	57	45
Rochester	51	102	78	100	75
Stoke Heath	137	239	438	506	527
Swinfen Hall	110[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	
Thorn Cross	39	7	19	143	84
Warren Hill	93	162	256	268	321
Werrington	129	104	139	143	141

(a) Prisoner on prisoner

Prison Name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Wetherby	175	414	492	403	353

[1] Incomplete data.
[2] In 2004 YOI Onley and YOi Swinfen Hall were re-rolled as HMP/YOI Onley and HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall . From this date they are no longer technically YOI's as they also hold adults.

(b) Prisoner on staff[1]

Prison Name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Ashfield	70	90	180	136	100
Aylesbury	15	6	17	18	14
Brinsford	39	34	19	10	17
Castington	56	57	50	46	46
Deerbolt	6	28	33	22	34
Feltham	103	173	138	118	107
Glen Parva	29	39	31	45	56
Hindley	27	14	32	58	48
Huntercombe	9	15	15	33	24
Lancaster Farms	9	28	47	56	39
Northallerton	9	22	14	9	8
Onley	98	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Portland	16	39	40	42	39
Reading	7	16	16	12	9
Rochester	16	18	23	13	4
Stoke Heath	20	39	56	69	76
Swifffen Hall	9	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Thorn Cross	4	1		4	1
Warren Hill	12	21	34	42	50
Werrington	24	19	19	22	12
Wetherby	4	77	72	60	37

[1] Prisoner on Officer and Prisoner on Other categories are used in this table and there may be some over inclusion, for example assaults on visitors may be recorded in the Prisoner on Other category.
[2] In 2004 YOI Onley and YOI Swifen hall wre re-rolled as HMP/YOI Onley and HMP YOI Swiffen hall. From this date they are no longer technicall YOIs as they also hold adults.

(ii) Assaults in Secure Training Centres

While the Youth Justice Board collects data from all secure establishments, the information requested is only available from the period April 2007. The total number of incidents involving *(a)* trainee on trainee, and *(b)* trainee on staff for the period of April 2007 to March 2008 is as follows.

Secure Training Centre	*Young person on young person*	*Young person on staff*
Hassockfield STC	98	62
Medway STC	168	252
Oakhill STC	258	557
Rainsbrook STC	108	197

Young Offenders: Custodial Sentencing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17-year-olds were given custodial sentences in each police force area since 1997; and what the average length of sentences was. [200247]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is contained in the following tables.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Person: aged 15 to 17 sentenced[1] to immediate custody by police force area and age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons

	1997			*1998*			*1999*			*2000*			*2001*		
Force	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*
Avon and Somerset	11	30	55	9	26	48	2	21	45	11	23	50	15	28	42
Bedfordshire	23	30	55	21	63	47	23	41	52	18	20	40	14	17	44
Cambridgeshire	13	21	45	8	25	44	15	28	48	13	20	40	15	30	28
Cheshire	13	41	58	18	29	60	21	27	63	19	30	56	16	36	58
City of London	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	24	50	73	19	30	77	17	30	66	22	33	62	15	22	41
Cumbria	15	23	28	10	17	45	16	16	38	16	20	35	18	33	38
Derbyshire	19	34	46	23	35	56	26	44	79	21	34	46	19	38	46

Persons aged 15 to 17 sentenced[1] to immediate custody by police force area and age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons

	1997			1998			1999			2000			2001		
Force	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*
Devon and Cornwall	19	37	49	7	31	66	13	17	59	3	15	27	7	11	19
Dorset	4	12	28	5	13	32	15	16	30	10	13	20	5	7	19
Durham	18	36	41	20	31	67	30	54	67	13	32	52	13	28	42
Essex	30	65	91	19	62	112	26	37	83	30	49	59	31	63	104
Gloucestershire	2	4	43	7	4	26	3	10	24	6	16	36	6	12	12
Greater Manchester	90	182	316	94	182	290	117	185	280	127	170	275	128	220	287
Hampshire	23	33	85	22	66	73	41	93	120	59	72	111	34	53	90
Hertfordshire	9	14	37	6	13	26	5	18	34	3	23	48	13	18	34
Humberside	20	52	77	33	46	87	20	57	91	21	31	50	39	40	60
Kent	27	67	74	31	78	105	24	45	77	32	42	64	42	55	88
Lancashire	30	76	120	31	65	113	27	78	104	31	59	100	37	56	87
Leicestershire	56	72	100	26	63	110	28	69	95	30	50	86	47	46	77
Lincolnshire	—	10	46	6	9	29	10	4	30	3	9	29	3	19	33
Merseyside	34	64	112	24	67	115	30	74	83	44	81	113	49	83	124
Metropolitan Police	174	311	544	166	316	494	151	329	513	173	328	502	177	344	464
Norfolk	4	5	20	7	9	23	7	20	29	7	19	20	13	13	22
North Yorkshire	12	28	36	10	23	38	15	22	56	13	26	53	17	19	44
Northamptonshire	2	11	38	8	25	39	8	29	48	12	8	33	3	24	16
Northumbria	51	121	141	47	105	171	41	102	190	35	63	128	33	81	117
Nottinghamshire	42	72	125	37	76	113	43	64	120	42	55	115	49	50	87
South Yorkshire	53	67	133	41	59	124	20	56	110	43	67	100	36	58	85
Staffordshire	16	26	69	17	32	59	17	45	71	4	44	51	42	34	66
Suffolk	3	16	23	8	11	28	7	23	45	6	13	32	4	12	19
Surrey	7	17	16	6	16	19	—	10	17	1	13	16	10	13	25
Sussex	9	43	63	10	56	70	14	28	63	11	27	61	22	35	66
Thames Valley	8	43	80	14	47	73	12	38	83	34	61	98	25	61	87
Warwickshire	9	12	23	3	9	19	11	15	24	11	8	39	9	13	23
West Mercia	12	28	50	8	37	50	12	33	70	23	32	56	23	42	63
West Midlands	97	200	332	94	208	335	103	220	358	112	217	332	151	231	345
West Yorkshire	61	98	190	58	105	183	79	131	236	69	113	169	53	139	181
Wiltshire	1	14	20	9	12	18	5	19	25	5	15	30	5	5	15
Dyfed-Powys	3	9	19	5	3	16	3	3	24	1	11	17	8	11	7
Gwent	3	17	39	19	29	53	18	32	46	8	18	32	5	13	21
North Wales	6	11	31	7	13	31	14	19	36	7	28	30	23	18	29
South Wales	40	68	117	59	96	128	55	106	153	55	92	147	71	89	96

Number of persons

	2002			2003			2004			2005			2006		
Force	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*
Avon and Somerset	26	30	58	12	39	47	11	32	58	12	24	39	10	25	40
Bedfordshire	19	24	24	8	25	30	15	24	43	15	32	41	13	21	24
Cambridgeshire	7	23	34	15	30	48	7	23	39	14	13	23	11	24	21
Cheshire	15	27	51	14	50	42	15	19	48	22	42	78	27	41	52
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cleveland	12	33	47	10	26	41	15	17	33	8	28	29	15	31	26
Cumbria	15	25	23	12	14	23	10	18	38	6	18	19	9	17	36
Derbyshire	14	40	76	21	23	51	21	24	39	19	34	46	13	43	37
Devon and Cornwall	6	9	11	4	8	9	1	6	13	6	12	13	—	4	8
Dorset	14	13	29	10	11	16	10	12	12	6	11	21	9	8	23
Durham	12	23	30	13	23	31	6	15	25	10	19	31	17	11	16
Essex	37	57	95	40	46	78	25	66	84	28	48	63	39	52	65
Gloucestershire	13	13	8	3	17	17	11	11	29	12	16	20	7	24	19
Greater Manchester	113	190	238	90	148	218	106	155	236	74	158	230	112	151	233
Hampshire	47	55	86	22	41	67	33	59	79	30	47	81	31	67	83
Hertfordshire	13	23	44	12	24	34	7	17	43	14	39	32	11	19	39

Number of persons

Force	2002			2003			2004			2005			2006		
	15	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*
Humberside	15	35	59	19	36	68	47	55	46	34	46	69	24	46	76
Kent	29	33	77	23	39	62	16	29	48	15	42	65	19	34	56
Lancashire	41	75	97	35	46	70	35	46	69	25	47	91	37	52	67
Leicestershire	25	45	94	22	34	72	17	38	60	15	28	42	13	31	35
Lincolnshire	12	15	17	3	18	31	6	6	17	9	4	15	2	5	9
Merseyside	32	74	94	43	59	123	34	63	103	44	66	100	49	65	97
Metropolitan Police	184	371	532	163	237	374	163	275	432	146	270	387	172	320	470
Norfolk	5	17	15	9	6	23	2	10	21	8	6	20	10	5	16
North Yorkshire	6	16	25	8	10	30	7	10	24	6	21	21	5	9	31
Northamptonshire	10	18	34	4	11	21	7	16	33	8	6	12	10	18	28
Northumbria	40	68	86	27	51	75	28	35	62	21	51	58	24	39	61
Nottinghamshire	47	72	98	42	59	100	28	68	75	42	60	97	39	52	77
South Yorkshire	33	55	99	28	47	100	26	52	85	20	52	105	16	47	85
Staffordshire	23	38	69	19	33	52	17	30	59	20	29	45	15	29	53
Suffolk	7	9	20	5	14	26	15	24	26	18	16	31	13	20	36
Surrey	4	9	20	4	25	11	3	11	22	8	15	13	5	14	20
Sussex	22	35	48	21	43	29	15	30	36	17	22	56	13	35	38
Thames Valley	26	53	117	22	33	66	13	29	64	9	27	61	23	39	64
Warwickshire	9	16	29	1	1	15	2	7	13	11	10	18	6	12	14
West Mercia	18	37	53	11	29	44	22	26	58	14	35	47	17	24	48
West Midlands	145	255	318	112	167	265	131	191	275	93	164	234	87	167	212
West Yorkshire	82	129	160	60	113	169	79	115	168	70	143	135	75	94	172
Wiltshire	11	15	17	5	16	12	7	9	23	3	14	9	2	11	23
Dyfed-Powys	5	12	7	—	6	8	2	3	9	1	3	12	3	6	17
Gwent	6	12	17	10	23	25	17	23	53	20	25	27	14	28	49
North Wales	13	27	27	17	25	32	8	22	42	16	20	38	22	25	41
South Wales	45	91	127	47	64	106	33	78	111	29	62	94	39	62	88

[1] Principal offence basis.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Average determinate custodial sentence length[1] for persons aged 15 to 17 sentenced to immediate custody by police force area and age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Average custodial sentence length (months)

	1997			1998			1999			2000			2001		
	15	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*
Avon and Somerset	16.2	9.3	8.0	9.3	8.9	8.9	4.0	10.9	8.7	5.9	9.9	7.2	8.5	13.0	8.0
Bedfordshire	6.7	6.9	5.0	11.5	6.1	7.9	7.2	8.7	7.2	4.6	16.8	9.8	10.1	7.2	13.1
Cambridgeshire	8.5	13.5	11.7	10.1	7.9	9.8	5.1	5.5	7.9	11.5	11.6	11.5	9.9	11.8	8.7
Cheshire	11.1	6.6	9.2	7.7	11.8	11.1	5.3	9.0	8.0	6.9	10.7	9.7	7.6	7.8	7.6
City of London	—	—	18.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	7.1	11.2	10.3	8.4	6.7	10.3	3.9	9.0	8.4	10.8	10.5	9.0	8.3	8.7	7.6
Cumbria	3.5	4.7	8.4	10.9	6.4	5.0	13.4	5.5	6.2	4.9	7.7	7.7	6.1	7.3	7.2
Derbyshire	8.7	8.3	11.1	12.3	10.1	7.7	11.5	10.8	10.1	8.2	8.6	8.0	8.7	7.2	10.2
Devon and Cornwall	10.1	7.4	11.4	14.3	5.9	7.8	7.4	9.5	6.9	6.3	7.3	6.8	17.4	14.5	22.8
Dorset	3.2	5.1	9.6	6.8	7.2	12.8	3.2	4.7	5.5	6.8	4.5	6.9	12.0	5.1	6.8
Durham	5.9	9.3	8.6	6.2	7.4	8.7	3.1	3.7	5.9	6.2	9.3	9.1	6.5	7.1	9.7
Essex	9.5	5.3	7.4	6.9	4.3	6.7	5.6	4.8	6.5	5.5	6.7	8.2	7.6	8.3	8.6
Gloucestershire	2.0	3.5	8.7	8.6	7.8	5.4	2.3	5.5	6.4	17.0	5.0	9.1	7.0	8.3	7.7
Greater Manchester	9.6	7.9	10.7	8.9	10.2	9.1	7.4	9.3	9.1	8.3	9.1	11.2	9.0	10.1	11.1
Hampshire	12.6	12.9	10.1	7.7	4.1	7.5	8.7	6.3	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.5	8.2	7.7	7.4
Hertfordshire	12.0	10.4	6.8	21.2	7.6	4.5	3.2	7.6	10.4	4.0	8.2	13.8	9.7	11.6	9.5
Humberside	6.4	9.6	7.5	6.9	8.8	9.3	6.0	8.0	9.8	11.1	10.7	11.4	9.1	9.0	8.0
Kent	9.1	8.0	8.6	9.1	6.4	6.1	4.6	6.1	7.4	12.0	7.5	9.3	6.1	9.7	7.3
Lancashire	14.6	7.9	7.7	8.0	8.1	6.9	11.6	8.3	11.2	7.5	7.3	8.7	8.9	8.1	9.3
Leicestershire	6.9	8.7	9.0	8.1	7.6	7.3	5.0	8.8	13.4	9.1	8.4	10.7	5.7	7.1	10.9

Average determinate custodial sentence length[1] for persons aged 15 to 17 sentenced to immediate custody by police force area and age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Average custodial sentence length (months)

	1997			1998			1999			2000			2001		
	15	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*
Lincolnshire	—	6.4	8.3	4.3	3.7	7.5	17.6	6.8	6.6	17.3	6.7	8.1	19.3	7.0	7.8
Merseyside	7.1	8.4	8.6	4.2	7.1	8.4	4.2	6.8	6.2	6.6	9.2	8.2	8.1	7.4	8.4
Metropolitan Police	16.5	15.5	13.1	9.1	11.3	12.0	9.9	9.9	11.9	9.4	11.5	12.3	8.6	11.6	11.0
Norfolk	3.8	10.0	9.2	5.8	3.0	8.6	2.9	4.9	5.7	4.6	7.5	9.5	5.1	5.5	6.5
North Yorkshire	7.0	4.5	6.2	4.2	5.0	8.8	8.3	6.0	6.2	7.4	6.3	8.0	12.6	10.8	11.7
Northamptonshire	5.0	5.5	8.4	7.9	10.6	8.3	7.2	8.1	8.9	5.8	13.0	11.5	4.7	20.3	16.6
Northumbria	6.1	10.0	9.7	4.5	7.1	7.3	4.4	7.1	7.6	9.3	8.3	9.8	9.9	10.2	10.5
Nottinghamshire	11.5	12.1	12.2	11.1	15.8	12.0	9.2	11.7	10.8	8.2	11.5	11.5	10.0	7.8	12.2
South Yorkshire	10.9	10.4	10.8	8.4	9.9	11.2	10.7	7.9	7.6	10.9	10.2	10.1	11.7	12.7	12.0
Staffordshire	7.5	7.5	7.8	4.5	9.8	7.5	7.9	6.7	7.3	19.0	9.8	10.9	7.0	7.0	9.8
Suffolk	20.0	6.5	8.8	8.5	4.2	12.0	5.5	6.5	7.7	8.0	10.6	9.9	5.5	12.0	9.9
Surrey	18.4	19.0	20.0	4.5	8.2	5.8	—	3.4	13.0	4.0	6.1	7.9	5.2	10.5	5.8
Sussex	4.7	6.2	7.8	2.8	6.1	7.2	11.6	11.0	8.7	5.9	11.3	11.2	7.6	7.7	8.6
Thames Valley	4.8	9.1	9.0	3.4	6.8	9.3	9.6	8.9	10.4	5.5	8.6	9.5	8.8	9.9	9.5
Warwickshire	4.4	6.5	8.2	2.3	10.9	12.3	7.6	7.9	10.5	7.6	5.5	13.3	14.2	10.8	17.1
West Mercia	8.6	11.6	14.3	6.4	10.0	11.1	7.2	8.4	9.2	7.5	10.8	12.9	7.0	7.9	10.3
West Midlands	10.1	8.6	9.8	9.8	9.9	10.2	8.0	8.8	8.3	8.1	8.2	10.7	8.5	9.3	9.8
West Yorkshire	9.4	10.0	9.2	8.7	8.7	10.7	8.9	8.2	10.3	8.5	12.1	11.0	8.4	10.4	11.9
Wiltshire	2.0	15.8	8.8	8.8	9.3	9.4	2.6	8.6	6.7	12.4	8.3	10.8	12.4	6.8	8.4
Dyfed-Powys	6.7	18.0	7.1	23.0	3.3	5.4	13.0	2.7	4.6	4.0	6.1	10.5	5.0	12.7	5.4
Gwent	5.0	13.3	5.3	8.1	5.1	8.2	5.2	3.5	5.5	9.8	17.4	6.2	15.2	12.2	13.9
North Wales	16.5	5.5	7.5	7.7	9.8	8.4	7.4	13.7	5.7	6.6	8.4	11.3	6.9	9.4	8.4
South Wales	6.4	8.7	9.9	6.8	8.3	7.7	6.8	7.1	7.8	7.2	9.0	10.3	7.7	8.2	8.2

Average custodial sentence length (months)

	2002			2003			2004			2005			2006		
	15	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*15*	*16*	*17*
Avon and Somerset	7.5	12.2	13.6	9.5	7.4	9.3	9.5	11.4	12.2	8.7	7.8	10.2	8.2	10.2	8.4
Bedfordshire	12.9	10.8	18.1	9.8	14.4	12.6	9.2	9.9	11.6	10.1	8.9	12.7	11.5	11.0	12.6
Cambridgeshire	9.4	11.5	13.8	8.7	13.9	9.7	7.4	12.7	15.3	7.9	14.5	10.7	13.1	6.2	12.1
Cheshire	13.9	9.9	12.2	7.9	11.4	8.8	7.5	18.2	11.5	10.3	13.2	10.3	9.9	8.5	10.4
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	18.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.0
Cleveland	14.3	13.7	13.5	7.2	14.5	15.4	14.0	9.2	10.4	14.5	13.5	9.7	7.6	10.5	10.5
Cumbria	5.7	9.9	9.7	9.1	6.4	9.3	5.8	7.7	10.1	9.0	10.0	13.2	4.5	7.8	9.2
Derbyshire	9.7	11.4	11.8	10.6	11.7	12.2	7.3	8.3	16.3	9.6	8.9	8.6	11.1	8.5	9.2
Devon and Cornwall	14.3	19.0	12.2	5.0	14.4	22.2	24.0	20.7	24.5	14.7	19.5	19.8	—	13.0	22.5
Dorset	5.4	6.8	15.9	5.0	4.9	8.4	15.0	5.5	5.8	9.0	20.7	10.1	11.1	10.0	12.9
Durham	9.3	12.3	10.1	10.0	9.4	10.1	10.3	13.5	8.9	6.2	9.4	9.6	6.4	8.7	5.6
Essex	10.7	9.4	6.9	6.4	7.0	8.6	8.1	8.2	8.4	5.4	9.0	10.3	6.2	6.7	8.9
Gloucestershire	12.0	7.4	12.0	12.7	12.1	7.6	8.2	10.2	8.8	7.2	6.8	14.9	12.0	13.2	12.4
Greater Manchester	11.9	13.2	11.8	9.8	10.6	12.5	8.3	10.0	11.2	8.5	10.4	9.8	8.3	9.3	11.5
Hampshire	9.1	10.1	11.2	7.7	11.1	11.9	6.8	7.7	10.3	6.3	9.1	10.4	7.0	10.7	8.6
Hertfordshire	16.2	19.1	12.0	7.0	8.8	20.0	10.9	8.6	14.1	5.0	9.4	10.6	7.6	11.3	8.0
Humberside	6.5	11.3	13.4	7.6	9.4	10.0	9.8	9.7	11.5	7.2	7.7	10.5	6.8	10.4	11.8
Kent	9.1	10.2	9.2	8.3	9.1	10.3	9.6	9.8	9.4	9.7	10.7	10.0	8.0	10.9	12.6
Lancashire	11.2	10.4	10.5	7.3	9.4	10.1	10.9	10.3	10.4	8.2	8.6	13.9	7.8	8.8	12.9
Leicestershire	8.5	8.4	14.2	7.4	7.7	9.5	10.1	10.2	13.1	13.1	10.4	10.9	6.2	7.6	8.5
Lincolnshire	20.0	14.7	16.2	4.0	11.3	11.1	6.0	9.0	12.2	12.2	4.5	13.9	5.0	6.8	12.4
Merseyside	6.6	10.0	13.2	8.0	8.9	9.3	9.5	8.0	11.7	7.8	10.0	11.1	10.2	10.2	11.2
Metropolitan Police	12.3	10.6	14.4	12.0	12.9	14.1	11.3	13.3	15.9	10.8	11.9	14.2	10.4	13.2	15.9
Norfolk	6.4	10.0	8.7	7.8	9.7	12.2	5.0	6.6	10.1	7.2	27.0	8.5	6.2	15.2	8.2
North Yorkshire	9.7	15.2	11.0	12.2	10.8	8.3	9.7	7.4	8.8	13.6	11.9	10.6	12.0	10.4	12.0

Average custodial sentence length (months)

	2002			2003			2004			2005			2006		
	15	16	17	15	16	17	15	16	17	15	16	17	15	16	17
Northamptonshire	10.6	13.3	9.4	6.0	7.1	8.8	19.4	10.6	10.5	10.8	8.7	17.2	9.8	13.9	15.9
Northumbria	11.4	8.6	11.2	7.6	8.4	10.8	14.8	7.8	9.4	9.4	11.9	11.3	7.4	7.5	8.7
Nottinghamshire	9.1	13.1	13.4	14.7	11.9	14.9	11.1	12.9	13.9	7.6	8.8	11.9	11.2	10.4	14.0
South Yorkshire	9.2	10.9	17.3	11.2	13.4	11.4	15.1	12.5	15.0	13.2	12.3	12.3	11.8	14.0	11.4
Staffordshire	7.7	9.6	9.0	8.4	9.3	8.5	7.2	11.7	8.8	9.3	9.2	9.6	11.6	9.3	7.7
Suffolk	9.1	20.3	13.4	6.8	7.3	12.5	8.0	8.1	10.5	5.6	5.8	7.7	6.6	6.5	9.7
Surrey	4.5	16.7	8.9	10.5	10.2	9.1	10.0	9.6	14.1	8.8	6.4	17.5	14.8	11.5	11.3
Sussex	7.6	7.7	14.9	10.8	8.9	11.2	7.9	11.9	11.7	6.5	12.1	11.2	7.5	11.7	12.2
Thames Valley	11.3	9.5	12.2	9.8	7.0	11.6	14.9	12.4	12.3	7.2	9.0	9.1	9.4	9.6	10.4
Warwickshire	15.6	9.5	13.8	4.0	12.0	12.3	24.0	14.0	9.8	6.2	25.8	11.1	38.8	19.0	14.9
West Mercia	8.9	10.3	8.7	9.8	7.6	8.6	7.9	9.8	9.6	9.0	7.9	7.2	6.2	8.2	10.8
West Midlands	9.6	9.7	10.8	8.6	9.9	10.7	8.9	8.6	10.9	8.4	10.1	10.2	8.4	11.2	11.2
West Yorkshire	9.7	11.1	13.4	9.9	9.7	11.5	9.2	11.9	12.5	7.5	11.9	12.2	8.4	10.3	11.5
Wiltshire	6.9	13.7	8.9	11.2	10.1	8.5	5.4	11.1	10.7	13.3	10.3	13.5	11.0	10.4	10.0
Dyfed-Powys	6.8	10.3	12.0	—	6.0	7.2	8.0	6.0	5.3	4.0	6.0	7.7	5.3	5.7	8.9
Gwent	6.3	13.5	11.8	15.8	11.8	10.4	8.4	9.7	11.7	7.3	8.7	9.6	6.4	7.8	8.8
North Wales	7.4	6.0	6.1	12.6	7.4	8.6	7.8	13.7	9.6	6.9	6.1	9.5	7.1	7.6	9.0
South Wales	10.1	10.5	11.2	8.0	10.3	7.6	7.2	10.1	10.1	7.0	8.5	8.7	7.2	8.5	8.9

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Notes:

1. Small numbers of persons may result in unrepresentative average custodial sentence lengths. Where numbers are low, average custodial sentence lengths are susceptible to bias from individual cases and may not be representative of local sentencing practice.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what refurbishments and renovations of 10 Downing Street, including the Prime Minister's flat above Downing Street, have taken place since the Prime Minister took office. [198984]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) by the then Parliamentary Secretary Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), on 14 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 913W.

Cinemas: Conservation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps have been taken to prevent further deterioration of Churchill's Cinema, part of the 26 Whitehall estate, as stated in English Heritage's Biennial Conservation Report on the Government Historic Estate 2005-07. [198178]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has undertaken some protection work to the roof of the cinema building. In addition, further maintenance work is currently being considered following receipt of the latest quadrennial inspection report prepared by heritage consultants.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which works, renovations and refurbishments originally considered by Project George are to be taken forward. [199117]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 1307W.

Departmental Intranet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 687W. on the departmental intranet, whether his Department's IT system is able to provide a record of Wikipedia entries *(a)* created and *(b)* amended from within his Department. [195837]

Mr. Watson: The Department does not hold this information.

Departmental Records

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 13 December 2007, *Official Report,* column 826W, on departmental records, which division of the Cabinet Office holds the records of the invoices and purchase orders formerly held by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. [199101]

Mr. Watson: The Deputy Prime Minister's Office residual responsibilities were transferred to the Cabinet Office, although the records of invoices and purchase orders pertaining to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office are held by the Department for Communities and Local Government and not by the Cabinet Office.

Government Departments: Charities

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the rules govern the provision of office accommodation by Government Departments to charitable organisations; and if he will make a statement. [201715]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong), on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1099W.

Official Residences: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1307W, on Official Residences: Repairs and Maintenance, what the infrastructure is that the Government intends to *(a)* renew, *(b)* upgrade and *(c)* refurbish in Downing street. [199105]

Mr. Watson: I have nothing further to add to the earlier answer.

Planning Permission: Costs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what initial estimate was made of the costs associated with planning application 08/00696 prior to the grant of authorisation for the project; and what completion date was set prior to the project's commencement. [199103]

Mr. Watson: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1307W.

Public Sector: Priory Healthcare

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many public-sector staff, including military personnel, have been treated at cost to the public purse at branches of the Priory chain of rehabilitation and treatment centres in the last 10 years. [198624]

Mr. Watson: Information on the cost to the public purse of public sector staff who have been treated at the Priory chain of rehabilitation and treatment centres is not held centrally by the Cabinet Office.

Trade Unions

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions he has had with trades union representatives on diversity among public service deliverers; and if he will make a statement. [198797]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has met civil service union representatives regularly to discuss actions being taken to achieve a truly diverse civil service workforce, and have a diverse group of people delivering public services. These meetings are ongoing.

The procurement of private-sector suppliers to deliver public-services is governed by procurement policy. The Office of Government Commerce in HM Treasury leads on procurement policy.

TREASURY

Carbon Emissions

Alan Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in UK carbon dioxide emissions between 2006 and 2007; what proportion of this was attributable to the Government's carbon tax and spend policies; and what the equivalent figures are, excluding emissions reductions achieved by purchases from overseas under carbon trading arrangements. [201491]

Angela Eagle: In 2007, UK emissions of the basket of six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto protocol were provisionally estimated to be 639.4 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent. This was 2 per cent. lower than the 2006 figure of 652.3 million tonnes. In 2007, UK net emissions of carbon dioxide were provisionally estimated to be 543.7 million tonnes. This was 2 per cent. lower than the 2006 figure of 554.5 million tonnes.

The decrease resulted from fuel switching from coal to natural gas for electricity generation, combined with lower fossil fuel consumption by households and industry. Details of the Government's policies and their expected impact on emissions is set out in the Energy White Paper published in May 2007. Details of the impact of fiscal measuresintroduced by the Government are outlined in PBR and Budget documents, and were summarised in table 6.2 of Budget 2008.

The Government see emissions trading as one of the most powerful tools available to tackle climate change in a cost-effective manner. These figures do not include the effect of emissions trading, as 2007 EU Emissions Trading Scheme results will not be available until May 2008. However, figures for 2006 show that, including the impact of emissions trading through the EU ETS, UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2006 were 20.7 per cent. below the 1990 level.

Coinage: Design

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of organising the public competition to design the new set of British coins; and what the overall cost of the introduction of the new coins will be. [200316]

Angela Eagle: The estimated cost of the new coin designs is approximately £119,000, which includes, under the terms of the public competition, a £35,000 fee to the artist who submitted the final design.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 22nd February 2008, Official Report, column 1107W, on publication supplements, if he will place in the Library copies of the publication supplements commissioned by Ogcbuying. Solutions and HM Revenue and Customs. [193311]

Angela Eagle: The publication supplements were produced and distributed by *Supply Management magazine* not OGCbuying.solutions. We therefore do not hold a supply of copies, but we will place a copy in the Library.

HM Revenue and Customs did not commission the publication of any newspaper or magazine supplements in 2006-07.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201752]

Angela Eagle: Information to the level of detail requested is obtainable only at disproportionate cost.

Treasury Ministers are committed to answering written parliamentary questions promptly whenever possible. In the present parliamentary Session 71 per cent. of the 2,063 ordinary written questions we have received have been answered within a working week of tabling (as provided for in Erskine May, twenty-third edition, page 342) and 56 per cent. of our 538 named day questions have been answered on the day nominated by questioners. The corresponding figures for the whole of the 2006-07 session were 83 per cent. (of 3,689 questions) and 71 per cent. (of 743 questions) respectively.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the change in fuel duty rates announced in Budget 2008 on those living in remote areas. [202202]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor considers a range of factors when deciding on rates of fuel duty, including social, economic and environmental ones. The planned fuel duty increase for April 2008 will now take place on 1 October 2008. This Budget 2008 decision is consistent with an overall stance of ensuring stability for the long term, while maintaining responsiveness to short-term conditions.

Financial Services: Pay

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conditions govern the payment of *(a)* dividends and *(b)* bonuses by banks and financial institutions which have received financial support from the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [197720]

Angela Eagle: The remuneration of the majority of staff of commercial undertakings is a matter for the boards of the organisations concerned. The normal practice for Executive Board remuneration is for the company's Remuneration Committee, formed of non-executive directors, to put forward proposals for shareholder approval where any bank is in receipt of financial assistance, whether or not it is in public ownership.

I refer the right hon. Member to what the Chief Secretary to the Treasury said in the House on 31 March, *Official Report*, 585.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his announcement on 23 April of measures to alleviate the impact of removing the 10p tax rate, what the estimated cost to the public purse is of these measures will be in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [202118]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor wrote to the Chair of the Commons Treasury Committee on 23 April to outline how the Government intend to do more to help low-income households. This letter made clear that a report on the issue will be published in the run-up to the pre-Budget report, and that the Chancellor will report back to the House in the pre-Budget report.

Inflation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the likely effects on inflation of the provision by the Bank of England to banks of arrangements for enhanced liquidity. [201898]

Angela Eagle: The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has full operational independence in meeting the Government's inflation target. The MPC makes interest rate decisions based on rigorous analysis, taking into account all relevant information, which includes the provision of liquidity to banks by the Bank of England.

In addition, the Bank of England has stated that the Special Liquidity Scheme announced on 21 April 2008

> "will be ring-fenced and independent of the Bank of England's regular money market operations. So it will not interfere with the Bank's ability to implement monetary policy."

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 18 March 2008 on tax on Land Rovers used by farmers. [202387]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Minimum Wage: Prosecutions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employers has been prosecuted for paying employees at a rate below the minimum

wage in each year since the minimum wage was introduced, broken down by region. [202208]

Jane Kennedy: There have been no prosecutions of employers for the non-payment of minimum wage. In 2007 there were two successful prosecutions of employers, one for obstructing a compliance officer and one for failing to produce records, in the London and South West regions.

In the great majority of cases where minimum wage arrears are identified, the employer pays any minimum wage arrears without the need for any formal enforcement action. When arrears are not paid, an enforcement notice will be issued setting out the arrears that are considered to be due. An employer will then have 28 days to lodge an appeal and subsequently have his case heard before an employment tribunal. If the tribunal does not uphold the appeal, or the employer does not appeal, the enforcement notice against the arrears becomes due.

Sovereign Wealth Funds

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on sovereign wealth funds; and if he will make a statement. [201975]

Angela Eagle: The Government have received contributions from a wide range of parties with an interest in the current international debate about sovereign wealth funds, including the Business Council for Britain.

The Government welcome these contributions to the international debate that is currently taking place at the International Monetary Fund and the Office for Econmic Co-operation and Development to develop best practice for sovereign wealth funds and host countries.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether sovereign wealth funds are exempt from taxation in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement; [201976]

(2) how much was raised by sovereign wealth funds in the UK in each of the last five years. [201977]

Angela Eagle: Where a sovereign wealth fund is an integral part of the government of a foreign sovereign state it will benefit from immunity from UK tax. As a result of this immunity, no taxation will have been received from sovereign wealth funds.

The United Kingdom recognises the principle of international law known as sovereign immunity whereby one sovereign state does not seek to apply its domestic laws to another sovereign state. In accordance with this principle, current UK practice is to regard as immune from direct taxes all income and gains which are beneficially owned by the head of state and the Government of a foreign sovereign state recognised by the UK.

Sustainable Development: Expenditure

Alan Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government spent on incentivising low-carbon technologies and lifestyles in the form of *(a)* capital grants, *(b)* research and development grants, *(c)* tax and duty rebates, *(d)* enhanced capital allowances, *(e)* expenditure on the provision of information and advice to businesses and consumers and *(f)* other expenditure on achieving carbon dioxide emission reductions in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [201594]

Angela Eagle: The Government have a range of policies in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the move to a low carbon economy. These include spending programmes, fiscal measures and regulation.

Figures for the breakdown requested are not held separately, but spending in 2006-07 on major programmes to support Research and Development and provide information and advice was as follows. The Carbon Trust was given £100 million to take the lead on business and public sector energy efficiency and encourage the development of a low-carbon economy in the UK. The Energy Saving Trust received £67 million to encourage and promote the sustainable and efficient use of energy in the household sector. Spending on low-carbon energy innovation through the Research Councils Energy Programme was £63 million, and spending through the Technology Strategy Board was £20 million. These figures are for Government as a whole, including funding from devolved administrations.

All tax measures that have an impact upon the public finances are scored as a matter of course and reported in PBR/Budget documents.

Taxation: Voluntary Organisations

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will increase the level of milage for which tax-free expenses may be paid to volunteer drivers of voluntary and charitable organisations. [202096]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 22W. HMRC allows volunteers to use the approved milage allowance payment (AMAP) rate for convenience, but it is not mandatory and volunteer drivers can claim tax relief for the full cost of motoring by completing a return, if they wish to do so.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Hazards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plans to take to address health problems associated with consumption of super-strength lager. [200977]

Dawn Primarolo: We know that some people are drinking too much, and tackling the culture of harmful and binge drinking is a priority for Government. We are working with the alcohol industry and other stakeholders to implement a comprehensive strategy to tackle it, including:

a new public information campaign, which will start on 19 May;

more help for people who want to drink less—targeted advice and support will be available from the same date;

a Home Office led review of industry social responsibility standards, which will report this Spring;

an independent review of alcohol pricing, promotion, and harm, which will report in August; and

toughened enforcement of the law on underage sales.

Much alcohol-related harm is preventable, and there are substantial health gains to be made through the widespread implementation of programmes to identify harmful drinking earlier, providing brief advice or referral to specialist alcohol treatment for those who need it.

We have put in place a new national indicator from April 2008 to measure change in the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions—the first ever national commitment to monitor publicly how the national health service is tackling alcohol harms. This indicator is expected to encourage earlier identification of people who drink too much linked to advice from general practitioners or hospitals. That is shown to be the best way of reducing the kind of 'everyday' drinking which over time leads to liver disease and other problems.

We will disseminate the lessons of the current trailblazer pilots on identification and brief advice to encourage uptake by NHS professionals.

Blood

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* daily, *(b)* weekly and *(c)* monthly clinical requirement for blood units to meet demand in the NHS. [200638]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Blood Service (NBS) issued a total of 1,825,000 red cell units during 2007-08.

This equates to

an average daily issue of 5,000 red cell units;

an average weekly issue of 35,906 red cell units; and

an average monthly issue of 152,083 red cell units.

The projected requirement for 2008-09 is a total issue of 1,765,000 red cell units, which would equate to:

an average daily issue of 4,836 red cell units;

an average weekly issue of 33,942 red cell units; and

an average monthly issue of 147,083 red cell units.

Blood Donors

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered blood donors there were in England and Wales in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08, broken down by local authority area. [200635]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Blood Service (NBS) has provided information on the number of registered blood donors in England and North Wales. This information is contained in the following table.

	Active whole blood donors (million)
2003-04	1.66
2004-05	1.60
2005-06	1.58
2006-07	1.45
2007-08	1.37

Note:
The NBS are unable to provide a breakdown by local authority area.

Blood: Testing

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the change in capacity in processing and testing of blood resulting from the consolidation by the National Blood Service of testing and processing facilities. [200799]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Blood Service (NBS) needs to improve efficiency and provide value for money for the national health service. The changes set out in the strategy review will allow the NBS to stabilise the cost of blood to hospitals.

The NBS strategy review demonstrated that the service is currently operating at 40 per cent. excess capacity in blood processing and 35 per cent. excess capacity in blood testing. The consolidation of processing and testing sites to six and five respectively will retain a good geographic spread across the country, while enabling the service to be more productive and ensuring the necessary flexibility to meet clinical and safety requirements now and in the future. The changes set out in the review will remove 24 per cent. excess capacity in processing and 28 per cent. in testing.

The current network of 15 blood issue sites (where blood is stocked and from which it is issued) will continue to supply hospitals with blood, as and when they need it.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the financial effects on the National Blood Service of the consolidation of testing and processing facilities. [200800]

Dawn Primarolo: The consolidation of processing and testing facilities will produce cumulative savings of £9.9 million up to 2010-11.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the modelling work on vascular risk assessment referred to in his Department's document Putting Prevention First. [198844]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The Department will publish a technical report on the modelling work used in developing its approach to vascular checks in the summer of 2008, which will be the subject of a consultation.

Care Homes: Protection

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made on the implementation of a performance indicator to measure

the effectiveness of protection processes for vulnerable adults; and if he will make a statement; [201283]

(2) what progress has been made on the introduction of a mandatory scheme for the collection and reporting of data by adult protection committees on vulnerable adult referrals; what resources his Department has provided for the project to date; and what resources it plans to provide in the next three financial years. [201284]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* A working group has been set up, comprising representatives from the Information Centre for health and social care, the Department, councils with adult social services responsibilities, Action on Elder Abuse, 'Respond' and academics.

A pilot data collection is planned for 2008-09, with a view to implementing a full data collection across all councils from 1 April 2009. The introduction of the national data collection will enable work to begin on developing an effective monitoring system, which will help support our drive to improve the lives of vulnerable and older people and the delivery of social care services.

The Department plans to provide the following resources to fund the project for the next three years.

		£
2007-08	Identifying information requirements, development and set up costs including development of information technology collection tool.	78,000
2008-09	Developing analysis tools and answering queries.	23,000
2009-10	Collecting, analysing and disseminating data.	24,000

Once we have established the feasibility of collecting these data, we will be in a position to consider the development of a performance indicator.

Death

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of people who die alone. [202204]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Over 500,000 people die each year in England. Approximately 55 per cent. of these deaths occur in hospital, around 20 per cent. at home, around 20 per cent. in care homes and around 4 per cent. in hospices. However, it is not known how many of these people die alone.

The Department is committed to improving people's care and choice at the end of life. Through the End of Life Care Programme, we have invested £12 million to support the rollout of end of life care tools such as the Gold Standards Framework, the Liverpool Care Pathway and the Preferred Place of Care. This summer, we will publish England's first End of Life Care Strategy. This comprehensive strategy will help deliver increased choice to all adult patients regardless of their condition about where they live and die.

Fibromyalgia

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the clinical causes of fibromyalgia. [201503]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* We have made no assessment of the causes of fibromyalgia.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered with a general practitioner in each region in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [201773]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* Data showing the number of registered patients by region is shown in the following table.

Registered general practitioner patients—England

		All patients (headcount)
	England	53,588,174
Q30	North East	2,532,206
Q31	North West	7,229,567
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	5,328,651
Q33	East Midlands	4,480,006
Q34	West Midlands	5,684,311
Q35	East of England	5,829,376
Q36	London	8,411,763
Q37	South East Coast	4,454,941
Q38	South Central	4,206,838
Q39	South West	5,330,515

Note:
Data as at 30 September 2007.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

General Practitioners: Buckingham Palace

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the closed-list GP practice at Buckingham Palace provides for *(a)* Royal Household staff based outside the area of Westminster Primary Care Trust and *(b)* staff employed in the households of other members of the Royal Family; and if he will make a statement; [199715]

(2) what revenue the closed-list GP practice at Buckingham Palace received under the additional needs-based allocation in each year since 2004; and what proportion of its income this represented in each such year; [199716]

(3) how many patients are registered on the closed-list GP practice at Buckingham Palace; and if he will make a statement; [199717]

(4) for what reasons there is a closed-list GP practice at Buckingham Palace; and if he will make a statement. [199718]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing local health services, including primary medical services, to reflect local needs and healthcare priorities. Westminster PCT has advised they it has a

long-standing general medical services (GMS) contract with a general practitioner to provide primary medical services for staff who live within the borders of Buckingham Palace. All GMS contracts set out the practice's boundaries, and in this case the practice area covers only the environs of the Palace. The practice does not operate a closed list but, in common with all practices, it does not have to register patients who live outside the practice area. The latest available data show that at 30 September 2007 there were 296 patients registered at the Buckingham Palace practice.

Information about the revenue that the practice has received for additional needs is not held centrally. My hon. Friend may therefore wish to raise this issue with the chief executive of Westminster PCT. However, the issue here is not additional needs funding but payments made under the minimum practice income guarantee, which is being reviewed and on which announcements will be made as part of the Next Stage Review this summer.

General Practitioners: Public Participation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many responses his Department received to the GP patient access survey, "Your doctor, your experience, your say" in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08; and what the response rate was in each year. [200889]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2006-07, the first year of the general practitioner patient survey, Ipsos MORI, which conduct, the survey on behalf of the Department, received a total of 2,295,987 valid responses from a total sample of 5,220,482, a response rate of 44 per cent. overall.

Survey data for 2007-08 are currently being processed and remain restricted and unavailable until official publication by the Information Centre for health and social care. Publication has been confirmed for the week commencing 14 July 2008.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners failed to achieve the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum percentage response of "yes" to access questions as part of the GP patient access survey "Your doctor, your experience, your say" survey, in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08, broken down by primary care trust. [200892]

Mr. Bradshaw: The first year in which the general practitioner patient survey was conducted was 2006-07. The number of primary medical care contractors in England who failed to achieve the minimum and maximum percentage responses of "yes" to the access questions have been placed in the Library. The table gives the breakdown by primary care trust. The survey does not apply in Wales.

The survey data for 2007-08 are currently being processed by Ipsos MORI, the appointed survey provider, and remain restricted and unavailable until official publication by the Information Centre for health and social care. Publication has been confirmed for the week commencing 14 July 2008.

Heart Diseases

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to reduce the incidence of heart attacks. [200979]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1191-92W.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used to appoint authorised persons to inspect *(a)* central sterile stores and *(b)* management of infection control. [202167]

Ann Keen: Guidance on the management and environment for the decontamination of reusable medical devices is set out in "Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-01): Decontamination of re-usable medical devices". Copies of this document are available in the Library.

Section five of Part A of HTM 01-01, identifies the functional responsibilities including 'Authorised Persons (Decontamination)' to ensure equipment is operated safely and efficiently. The precise criteria concerning the appointment of an authorised person are covered in paragraphs 5.35 to 5.43 in this document.

Directors of Infection Prevention and Control are appointed by national health service trusts who decide which criteria to use. Guidance on competences for DIPCs was issued in May 2004. The detail can be found at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_4083982

In addition, all acute NHS trusts are inspected against the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections by the Healthcare Commission. The Healthcare Commission decides which criteria to use when recruiting its specialist teams of inspectors.

Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on influenza, to which organisations providing essential services the National Capabilities Survey is sent; and if he will make a statement. [199239]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply

The 2008 National Capabilities Survey was sent to the full range of over 1,200 Category 1 and 2 responders in England and Wales, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Among these, the private-sector organisations providing essential services are to be found among the category 2 responders. The UK Resilience website provides a list of the kinds of organisations that fall into each of these categories:

http://www.ukresilience.info/preparedness/ccact/~/media/assets/www.ukresilience.info/err_ann_03a%20pdf.ashx

Copies of the lists have been placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

Mentally Ill People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people were diagnosed with mental health problems before the age of *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 20 years in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [200983]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected by the Department on the number of children and adults diagnosed with a mental health disorder.

The Office for National Statistics 2004 survey 'Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain' looked at the prevalence of mental health disorders. It found that 10 per cent. of young people aged five to 16 years had a clinically diagnosed mental disorder. This was further broken down to 8 per cent. of five to 10-year-olds and 12 per cent. of 11 to 16-year-olds. A copy of this publication is available in the Library.

NHS Blood and Transplant: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the budget was for the NHS Blood and Transplant Special Health Authority in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08; [200637]

(2) what the combined budget was of the National Blood Service and UK Transplant and Bio Products Laboratory in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08. [200847]

Dawn Primarolo: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) was established in October 2005 following the merger of the National Blood Authority (NBA) (made up of the National Blood Service and Bio Products Laboratory) and UK Transplant (UKT).

Information on the total budget is provided in the following table.

	Special health authority	*Total budget (£ million)*
2003-04	NBA and UKT	415
2004-05	NBA and UKT	445
2005-06	NBA and UKT (until September 2005). NHSBT from October 2005	448
2006-07	NHSBT	448
2007-08	NHSBT	483

NHS Blood and Transplant: Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what changes in headcount in the National Blood Service and UK Transplant and Bio Products Laboratory are planned as part of the implementation of the findings of the Review of the National Blood Service; [200639]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effects on employee numbers in the National Blood Service of the consolidation of testing and processing facilities. [200801]

Dawn Primarolo: Consolidation of processing and testing to six and five sites respectively will result in a reduction of around 140 posts. This is part of an anticipated overall reduction of up to 600 posts across the National Blood Service (NBS) by the end of 2010-11. The NBS intends to reduce these posts largely through non-compulsory means, including voluntary redundancy, staff turnover and vacancy control. Help will be provided for all staff affected by change to find other jobs, across NHS Blood and Transplant and the wider national health service.

Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much South Central Strategic Health Authority has spent on the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre's *(a)* foundation trust diagnostic exercise, *(b)* strategic options exercise with KPMG and *(c)* Stage 1 financial viability assessment; and how much it is estimated will be spent on Stages 2 and 3 of the financial viability assessment. [200966]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally. It is for South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to work with Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust to develop the strategic future of the trust. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this with the chief executive of South Central SHA.

Polyclinics: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation has been undertaken with local stakeholders on the proposed establishment of a polyclinic facility in the Peterborough primary care trust area in March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [201349]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* Decisions on the form of consultation process to adopt, whom to consult and the time allowed for this process will be made by each primary care trust, and will need to be taken in the light of all relevant factors, including any consultation already conducted or under way.

PCTs are working locally with their strategic health authorities and relevant stakeholders, including local clinicians and patients, to design their service specifications for new health centres.

Sight Impairment: Research

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to support the continuation of research into gene therapy for

inherited blindness conducted at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Institute of Ophthalmology; and if he will make a statement. [202308]

Dawn Primarolo: The ocular gene therapy research being undertaken by University College London Institute of Ophthalmology and Moofield Eye Hospital'Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) is at forefront of world science and should lead to the restoration of sight to many people. The project has been directly funded by the Department, along with other funding partners. The Moorfields BRC has been allocated some £14 million over five years by the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

The project is an exemplar of translational research, and illustrates the importance of getting cutting-edge science from the laboratory to the patients whom it can benefit. To that end, we have set up the Office for Strategic Co-ordination for Health Research, chaired by Professor Sir John Bell, working with the Medical Research Council and the NIHR to ensure a major improvement in the translation of basic research into health and economic benefits; and have invested in a single health research fund that will rise to £1.7 billion by 2010-11.

Social Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people of working age were assessed for social care needs in each local authority in 2007-08; and how many people so assessed were found to have a *(a)* low, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* critical level of social care need in each local authority; [202313]

(2) how many people of working age who were assessed for social care needs in 2007-08 and found to have a level of social care need *(a)* did and *(b)* did not go on to receive state-funded social care support from their local authority. [202314]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest available data are for 2006-07. The level of social care need is not held centrally.

The following table shows the number of new clients aged 18 to 64 with completed assessments and the anticipated sequel to assessment completed during the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

Number of clients aged 18 to 64 with completed assessments by anticipated sequel to assessment or review, England, 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

Rounded numbers

	Councils with social services responsibilities	*Total*	*Some or all (new) services intended or already started*	*No (new) services offered or intended to be provided*	*(New) services(s) offered but declined*	*Other sequel*
	England	190,000	119,000	49,000	4,200	17,000
	North-east	8,800	5,300	2,300	300	900
	Shire counties					
116	Durham	995	810	165	20	0
104	Northumberland	525	325	205	0	0
	Unitary authorities					
117	Darlington	285	190	60	10	20
111	Hartlepool	405	220	185	0	0
112	Middlesbrough	710	265	365	30	50
113	Redcar and Cleveland	505	390	100	10	[—]
114	Stockton-on-Tees	495	455	15	10	15
	Metropolitan districts					
106	Gateshead	710	370	285	50	0
107	Newcastle upon Tyne	1,450	590	145	90	620
108	North Tyneside	730	405	130	10	185
109	South Tyneside	770	445	305	20	[—]
110	Sunderland	1,240	800	380	20	40
	North-west	23,000	13,000	5,500	900	3,100
	Shire counties					
320	Cheshire	2,145	1,085	710	65	285
102	Cumbria	900	455	195	55	190
323	Lancashire	2,750	1,570	630	205	345
	Unitary authorities					
324	Blackburn	330	80	175	35	40
325	Blackpool	290	150	115	25	0
321	Halton	305	165	135	[—]	0
322	Warrington	745	355	345	5	40

Number of clients aged 18 to 64 with completed assessments by anticipated sequel to assessment or review, England, 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

Rounded numbers

	Councils with social services responsibilities	*Total*	*Some or all (new) services intended or already started*	*No (new) services offered or intended to be provided*	*(New) services(s) offered but declined*	*Other sequel*
	Metropolitan districts					
304	Bolton	1,260	950	225	55	30
305	Bury	685	425	115	45	100
315	Knowsley	580	455	110	15	[1]—
316	Liverpool	1,495	1,090	210	60	130
306	Manchester	1,345	715	275	60	300
307	Oldham	1,450	605	110	10	725
308	Rochdale	[2]—	495	260	20	[2]—
309	Salford	260	150	50	10	50
317	Sefton	440	310	100	10	20
318	St Helens	565	420	80	25	40
310	Stockport	900	750	70	45	35
311	Tameside	1,680	1,000	500	30	145
312	Trafford	780	420	330	5	25
313	Wigan	1,625	1,135	400	60	30
319	Wirral	1,470	425	405	20	620
	Yorkshire and the Humber	19,000	12,000	3,700	500	1,800
	Shire counties					
218	North Yorkshire	1,275	805	360	20	85
214	East Riding	1,100	705	350	10	35
215	Kingston-upon-Hull	1,870	1,595	235	20	20
216	North East Lincolnshire	815	720	65	[1]—	30
217	North Lincolnshire	1,055	610	220	5	220
219	York	705	305	235	10	160
	Metropolitan districts					
204	Barnsley	1,790	1,705	70	15	0
209	Bradford	1,485	915	415	80	75
210	Calderdale	435	365	40	15	20
205	Doncaster	585	300	[1]—	200	85
211	Kirklees	1,130	525	455	15	130
212	Leeds	2,535	1,055	960	35	480
206	Rotherham	325	260	55	10	[1]—
207	Sheffield	2,700	2,275	30	55	345
213	Wakefield	695	325	195	35	135
	East Midlands	11,000	7,900	1,800	100	900
	Shire counties					
506	Derbyshire	1,715	1,320	135	25	235
508	Leicestershire	1,045	805	150	30	55
503	Lincolnshire	1,290	735	170	10	375
504	Northamptonshire	2,395	1,720	670	0	5
511	Nottinghamshire		1,005	140	20	[2]—
	Unitary authorities					
507	Derby	600	425	135	10	25
509	Leicester	745	580	110	40	15
512	Nottingham	1,605	1,185	235	10	175
510	Rutland	140	110	20	[1]—	[1]—
	West Midlands	20,000	13,000	6,200	400	900
	Shire counties					
417	Shropshire	1,975	1,210	770	[1]—	0
413	Staffordshire	1,630	1,010	325	40	255
404	Warwickshire	1,785	1,065	695	25	0
416	Worcestershire	775	500	80	20	175

Number of clients aged 18 to 64 with completed assessments by anticipated sequel to assessment or review, England, 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

Rounded numbers

	Councils with social services responsibilities	*Total*	*Some or all (new) services intended or already started*	*No (new) services offered or intended to be provided*	*(New) services(s) offered but declined*	*Other sequel*
	Unitary authorities					
415	Herefordshire	[2]—	670	80	0	[2]—
414	Stoke-on-Trent	1,905	795	755	75	280
418	Telford and Wrekin	1,330	920	405	[1]—	0
	Metropolitan districts					
406	Birmingham	5,600	3,165	2,220	190	25
407	Coventry	845	595	235	15	0
408	Dudley	980	755	150	10	65
409	Sandwell	1,100	1,020	70	10	0
410	Solihull	415	285	70	20	45
411	Walsall	230	130	30	5	70
412	Wolverhampton	870	575	300	0	0
	South West	22,000	15,000	4,500	400	2,200
	Shire counties					
902	Cornwall	2,250	1,180	215	120	735
912	Devon	4,390	3,570	815	[1]—	0
809	Dorset	2,270	1,635	430	30	175
904	Gloucestershire	2,005	1,485	360	45	115
906	Isles of Scilly	10	10	0	0	0
905	Somerset	1,375	895	200	50	225
817	Wiltshire	1,880	1,255	595	25	10
	Unitary authorities					
908	Bath and North East Somerset	410	310	100	[1]—	0
810	Bournemouth	640	400	35	20	190
909	Bristol	2,415	1,330	745	20	315
910	North Somerset	335	230	10	10	85
913	Plymouth	1,260	805	455	0	0
811	Poole	840	625	195	15	[1]—
911	South Gloucestershire	525	335	85	5	10
819	Swindon	910	575	215	5	120
914	Torbay	580	420	50	10	100
	Eastern	18,000	12,000	5,300	300	1,100
	Shire counties					
610	Bedfordshire	1,020	490	530	0	0
623	Cambridgeshire	930	770	135	25	[1]—
620	Essex	7,735	4,850	2,665	10	210
606	Hertfordshire	2,115	1,590	235	55	245
	607 Norfolk	1,520	1,080	235	55	150
	609 Suffolk	1,915	1,355	205	35	320
	Unitary authorities					
611	Luton	575	330	215	20	5
624	Peterborough	485	335	60	20	75
621	Southend	1,455	475	910	15	55
622	Thurrock	390	255	90	45	0
	London	31,000	18,000	9,500	1,100	2,600
	Inner London					
702	Camden	700	535	130	10	30
703	Greenwich	2,230	1,840	330	15	40

Number of clients aged 18 to 64 with completed assessments by anticipated sequel to assessment or review, England, 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

Rounded numbers

	Councils with social services responsibilities	*Total*	*Some or all (new) services intended or already started*	*No (new) services offered or intended to be provided*	*(New) services(s) offered but declined*	*Other sequel*
704	Hackney	1,240	895	295	45	[1]—
705	Hammersmith and Fulham	765	490	175	75	30
706	Islington	1,180	485	475	15	205
707	Kensington and Chelsea	980	615	205	30	135
708	Lambeth	645	390	205	0	50
709	Lewisham	1,000	825	150	25	0
710	Southwark	2,685	1,420	940	215	110
711	Tower Hamlets	450	160	15	[1]—	265
712	Wandsworth	[2]—	250	330	70	[2]—
713	Westminster	1,570	645	630	45	255
714	City of London	65	30	30	[1]—	[1]—
	Outer London					
716	Barking and Dagenham	390	240	50	75	30
717	Barnet	570	285	175	20	90
718	Bexley	1,940	920	855	30	135
719	Brent	2,360	620	1,640	25	80
720	Bromley	[2]—	1,045	215	80	[2]—
721	Croydon	320	190	85	40	0
722	Ealing	1,665	855	750	10	40
723	Enfield	570	455	60	20	40
724	Haringey	875	495	250	10	120
725	Harrow	310	210	70	10	25
726	Havering	305	160	30	30	90
727	Hillingdon	495	365	5	[1]—	120
728	Hounslow	520	270	105	[1]—	145
729	Kingston-upon-Thames	540	350	105	15	70
730	Merton	990	645	45	55	240
731	Newham	2,440	1,335	880	10	220
732	Redbridge	480	350	15	115	0
733	Richmond upon Thames	255	180	30	[1]—	45
734	Sutton	245	205	20	[1]—	15
735	Waltham Forest	275	115	150	10	0
	South East	37,000	23,000	11,000	200	3,200
	Shire counties					
612	Buckinghamshire	1,010	650	340	[1]—	15
815	East Sussex	1,785	705	520	35	530
812	Hampshire	8,785	7,510	840	10	425
820	Kent	6,125	4,255	1,550	25	290
608	Oxfordshire	1,220	635	565	10	10
805	Surrey	7,710	2,100	5,210	25	375
807	West Sussex	2,920	2,770	125	10	15

Number of clients aged 18 to 64 with completed assessments by anticipated sequel to assessment or review, England, 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

Rounded numbers

	Councils with social services responsibilities	*Total*	*Some or all (new) services intended or already started*	*No (new) services offered or intended to be provided*	*(New) services(s) offered but declined*	*Other sequel*
	Unitary authorities					
614	Bracknell Forest	1,065	445	355	15	250
816	Brighton and Hove	430	320	40	[1]—	70
803	Isle of Wight	260	175	25	[1]—	60
821	Medway Towns	1,820	715	260	0	845
613	Milton Keynes	280	240	35	[1]—	[1]—
813	Portsmouth	250	130	30	[1]—	85
616	Reading	795	360	245	15	170
617	Slough	795	645	150	0	0
814	Southampton	955	770	160	10	15
615	West Berkshire	575	460	110	[1]—	[1]—
618	Windsor and Maidenhead	375	270	95	10	0
619	Wokingham	175	130	40	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Denotes five or less (or less than 50 for National and Regional totals)
[2] Denotes missing data

Notes:
1. The England and regional totals are estimates based on the figures from 150 A5 proformas
2. Figures may not add up because of rounding.
3. Regional and national totals may not be equal to the sum of the council level figures due to the use of estimates when the council did not fully complete the return.

Source:
RAP proforma A5

Trauma

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet representatives of the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death to discuss its report Trauma: Who Cares? [201504]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* The Department has regular contact with the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) on a variety of issues. We are carefully considering how to take forward the recommendations in the report, "Trauma: Who Cares?" and officials will be arranging a further meeting with NCEPOD shortly.

Tuberculosis: Foreigners

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what percentage of recent tuberculosis cases those diagnosed were not born in the UK. [200524]

Dawn Primarolo: The country of birth (United Kingdom or non-UK) was reported for 89 per cent. of cases of tuberculosis diagnosed in the UK in 2006 (latest available data). Of these cases, 72 per cent. were not born in the UK.

Notes:
1. The provisional data for 2007 were published in March 2008 but do not include detailed demographic data.
2. The finalised data for 2007 will be available in autumn 2008 and will include detailed demographic data.

Source:
Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and Enhanced Surveillance of Mycobacterial Infections (Scotland).

Westminster Primary Care Trust: General Practitioners

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Thurrock of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 884W, on Westminster Primary Care Trust: General Practitioners, what the names are of the 2 per cent. of GP practices with closed lists; and under which primary care trusts they operate. [199946]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on individual general practitioner practice closed lists are held at primary care trust (PCT) level and not collected centrally. The following table lists the names of PCTs which have reported practices as having closed lists. The results of the quarter 4 (February) 2007-08 Primary Care Access Survey (PCAS) show that 148 practices have been reported as having a closed list, representing 1.7 per cent. of the total 8,505 practices reported in the PCAS.

Organisation name	*Number of practices whose list is closed for new patients to register*	*Percentage of (all) practices whose list is closed for new patients to register*
	8,505	—
England	148	1.7
County Durham PCT	0	0.0
Darlington PCT	0	0.0
Gateshead PCT	1	3.0
Hartlepool PCT	0	0.0
Middlesbrough PCT	0	0.0

Organisation name	Number of practices whose list is closed for new patients to register	Percentage of (all) practices whose list is closed for new patients to register
Newcastle PCT	1	2.7
North Tyneside PCT	0	0.0
Northumberland Care Trust	1	2.0
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	0	0.0
South Tyneside PCT	4	13.8
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching	0	0.0
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1	1.9
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	0	0.0
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	3	9.7
Blackpool PCT	0	0.0
Bolton PCT	0	0.0
Bury PCT	2	6.3
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	0	0.0
Central Lancashire PCT	6	6.5
Cumbria PCT	0	0.0
East Lancashire PCT	0	0.0
Halton and St Helens PCT	1	1.9
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	2	5.7
Knowsley PCT	1	2.8
Liverpool PCT	0	0.0
Manchester PCT	5	4.9
North Lancashire PCT	0	0.0
Oldham PCT	1	2.2
Salford PCT	7	12.7
Sefton PCT	2	3.6
Stockport PCT	0	0.0
Tameside and Glossop PCT	3	7.5
Trafford PCT	13	27.7
Warrington PCT	5	17.2
Western Cheshire PCT	0	0.0
Wirral PCT	0	0.0
Barnsley PCT	1	2.3
Bradford and Airedale PCT	3	3.5
Calderdale PCT	0	0.0
Doncaster PCT	0	0.0
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	3	7.3
Hull PCT	5	8.3
Kirklees PCT	0	0.0
Leeds PCT	2	1.8
North East Lincolnshire PCT	0	0.0
North Lincolnshire PCT	0	0.0
North Yorkshire and York PCT	0	0.0
Rotherham PCT	0	0.0
Sheffield PCT	0	0.0
Wakefield District PCT	0	0.0
Bassetlaw PCT	0	0.0
Derby City PCT	0	0.0
Derbyshire County PCT	0	0.0
Leicester City PCT	1	1.4
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1	1.2
Lincolnshire PCT	0	0.0
Northamptonshire PCT	0	0.0
Nottingham City PCT	0	0.0
Nottinghamshire County PCT	5	5.0
Birmingham East and North PCT	1	1.2
Coventry Teaching PCT	1	1.5
Dudley PCT	0	0.0
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	3	4.0
Herefordshire PCT	0	0.0
North Staffordshire PCT	0	0.0
Sandwell PCT	0	0.0
Shropshire County PCT	0	0.0
Solihull PCT	0	0.0
South Birmingham PCT	0	0.0

Organisation name	Number of practices whose list is closed for new patients to register	Percentage of (all) practices whose list is closed for new patients to register
South Staffordshire PCT	0	0.0
Stoke on Trent PCT	0	0.0
Telford and Wrekin PCT	0	0.0
Walsall Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Warwickshire PCT	0	0.0
Wolverhampton City PCT	0	0.0
Worcestershire PCT	0	0.0
Bedfordshire PCT	3	5.4
Cambridgeshire PCT	—	—
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1	1.6
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	4	12.5
Luton Teaching PCT	1	3.3
Mid Essex PCT	0	0.0
Norfolk PCT	0	0.0
North East Essex PCT	0	0.0
Peterborough PCT	4	12.9
South East Essex PCT	0	0.0
South West Essex PCT	0	0.0
Suffolk PCT	0	0.0
West Essex PCT	1	2.5
West Hertfordshire PCT	0	0.0
Barking and Dagenham PCT	0	0.0
Barnet PCT	0	0.0
Bexley Care Trust	1	2.9
Brent Teaching PCT	1	1.4
Bromley PCT	0	0.0
Camden PCT	1	2.4
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Croydon PCT	1	1.5
Ealing PCT	0	0.0
Enfield PCT	0	0.0
Greenwich Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	0	0.0
Haringey Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Harrow PCT	1	2.6
Havering PCT	1	1.7
Hillingdon PCT	1	2.0
Hounslow PCT	0	0.0
Islington PCT	1	2.5
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	0	0.0
Kingston PCT	0	0.0
Lambeth PCT	0	0.0
Lewisham PCT	0	0.0
Newham PCT	13	18.6
Redbridge PCT	0	0.0
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	0	0.0
Southwark PCT	0	0.0
Sutton and Merton PCT	0	0.0
Tower Hamlets PCT	0	0.0
Waltham Forest PCT	0	0.0
Wandsworth PCT	0	0.0
Westminster PCT	2	4.0
Brighton and Hove City PCT	0	0.0
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	0	0.0
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	14	11.9
Hastings and Rother PCT	0	0.0
Medway Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Surrey PCT	0	0.0
West Kent PCT	6	5.8
West Sussex PCT	0	0.0
Berkshire East PCT	1	1.9
Berkshire West PCT	0	0.0
Buckinghamshire PCT	0	0.0
Hampshire PCT	0	0.0

Organisation name	Number of practices whose list is closed for new patients to register	Percentage of (all) practices whose list is closed for new patients to register
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	0	0.0
Milton Keynes PCT	0	0.0
Oxfordshire PCT	0	0.0
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Southampton City PCT	1	2.5
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	0	0.0
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	0	0.0
Bristol PCT	2	3.4
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	0	0.0
Devon PCT	0	0.0
Dorset PCT	0	0.0
Gloucestershire PCT	0	0.0
North Somerset PCT	0	0.0
Plymouth Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Somerset PCT	0	0.0
South Gloucestershire PCT	0	0.0
Swindon PCT	2	6.1
Torbay Care Trust	0	0.0
Wiltshire PCT	0	0.0

[1] No Data.
Source:
2007-08 Department of Health Primary Care Access Survey (quarter 4).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what evaluations of the academies programme have been commissioned by his Department for publication in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and if he will make a statement. [201101]

Jim Knight: The Department has a contract with PricewaterhouseCoopers to carry out a yearly evaluation of the academies programme. This contract ends with the publication of the fifth annual report later this year. The Department is currently considering options for conducting future evaluations.

Academies: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether academies are permitted to select by aptitude in subject areas other than their specialism; and if he will make a statement. [201094]

Jim Knight: Any maintained school or academy may seek to admit up to 10 per cent. of its intake by aptitude in one of the relevant 'prescribed' subjects if it considers it has a specialism, whether or not that specialism is recognised formally by its designation as a specialist school or as an academy with a particular specialism. In the case of academies, such arrangements would have first to be approved by the Secretary of State.

Prescribed subjects are limited to modern foreign languages, performing or visual arts and physical education or sport. Academies may also continue to select 10 per cent. by aptitude in design and technology and ICT if and only if they or their predecessor schools already had such arrangements in place prior to the 2008 academic year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have refused to admit children after direction by local authorities since their establishment; how many such cases have been subject to an appeal to him; and if he will make a statement. [201113]

Jim Knight: Local authorities do not have the power to direct academies to admit children. The Secretary of State has the power of direction in the case of academies.

Academies: Head Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 823W, on academies: head teachers, for what reasons the National Professional Qualification for Headship will be compulsory in all maintained schools other than academies; and if he will make a statement. [201404]

Jim Knight: We are considering the process for ensuring that all academies benefit from the best possible opportunities for enhanced leadership training appropriate to their circumstances, including the National Professional Qualification for Headship. I will write to the hon. Member with further details once that consideration is complete.

Academies: Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of rates of exclusions at academies; and if he will make a statement. [201052]

Jim Knight: As a group, academies have an overall pattern of exclusions that is almost identical to the pattern for a control group of similar schools. Academies often inherit a large number of disengaged pupils and need to establish good behaviour in order to

raise attainment. Academies place great emphasis on getting the basics right and improving behaviour in particular. As the new ethos and behaviour policy are implemented in an academy's early days, the number of exclusions may rise, but it typically falls as behaviour improves. This phenomenon is not unique to academies; the same effect is often observed when a new head teacher transforms a struggling maintained school.

A paper illustrating the pattern of exclusions and comparing exclusions in academies with a control group of schools with similar characteristics has been placed in the House Library. The chart shows the overall distribution of exclusions in academies and a group of control schools.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what rights of appeal are available to pupils permanently excluded from academies; and if he will make a statement. [201067]

Jim Knight: The funding agreements of all academies provide that all pupils permanently excluded from academies have the right to an independent appeal panel in the same way as they would following permanent exclusion from a maintained school.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether academies are required to provide parents of excluded pupils with a right of appeal to an independent exclusions appeal panel; and if he will make a statement. [201112]

Jim Knight: All academies are required to provide parents of permanently excluded pupils with the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel.

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who the *(a)* sponsors and *(b)* co-sponsors are of academies whose funding agreements were approved by his Department between 28 November 2007 and 15 April 2008. [201102]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the chart as follows.

Academy name	*FA signed*	*Sponsor*	*Co Sponsor*	*LA*
Oasis Academy Hengrove	December 2007	Oasis Community Learning	—	Bristol, City of
Djanogly City Academy	December 2007	Sir Harry Djanogly	—	Nottingham
Bede Academy	December 2007	Emmanuel Schools Foundation	—	Northumberland
The RSA Academy, Tipton	February 2008	RSA	—	Sandwell
City of London KPMG Academy	March 2008	Corporation of London	KPMG	Hackney
City of London Academy	March 2008	Corporation of London	City University	Islington
The Open Academy	March 2008	Graham Dacre	Bishop of Norwich	Norfolk
Colston's Girls	March 2008	The Society of Merchant Venturers	—	Bristol, City of
Pimlico Academy	April 2008	FUTURE	—	Westminster

Academies: Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what freedoms have been granted to academies over the pay and conditions of their staff; and if he will make a statement. [201044]

Jim Knight: It is the responsibility of the governing body of each academy to agree levels of pay and conditions of service with its employees. However, all teachers must have access to the Teachers Pension Scheme and all employees other than teachers must have access to the Local Government Pension Scheme. Any employees transferring to an academy from its predecessor school or schools have their existing pay and conditions protected under TUPE regulations.

Children

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many copies of his Department's Children's Plan Toolkit have been produced; and what the cost was of the production of those copies. [201265]

Beverley Hughes: A total of 1,550 packs have been produced. The total cost was £30,534, which included the design, production and distribution of the packs.

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in care were parents in each of the last 10 years; [201856]

(2) how many children in care committed suicide in each of the last 10 years. [201864]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of mothers aged 12 and over who were looked after by English local authorities in each of the years ending 31 March 2005 to 2007 is shown in table A5 as follows. Table A5 is taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007'. The SFR is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

and table A5 can be found within the first set of excel tables on the website.

Information on the number of children in care who committed suicide is not collected centrally by the Department.

Table A5: mothers aged 12 years and over looked after at 31 March 2005 to 2007 by age at 31 March, age at birth of first child, category of need, ethnic origin and placement[1,2,3]

England

	Numbers			Percentage		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
All females looked after at 31 March[1,2]	27,200	26,900	26,600	—	—	—
All mothers aged 12 years and over looked after at 31 March[1,2]	300	310	360	100	100	100
Age at 31 March (years)	300	310	360	100	100	100
12 to 14	10	20	30	3	6	8
15	40	40	40	14	12	12
16	90	100	100	29	31	29
17	160	160	190	54	51	52
18 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age at birth of first child (years)[4]	*	310	360	*	100	100
12 to 14	*	40	40	*	11	11
15	*	60	70	*	19	19
16	*	70	80	*	23	21
17	*	40	50	*	11	14
18 and over	*	0	—	*	0	—
Birth date not reported	*	110	130	*	35	35
Category of need[5]	300	310	360	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	140	160	180	48	50	51
Child's disability	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parent's illness or disability	10	—	10	4	—	2
Family in acute stress	30	30	30	10	11	9
Family dysfunction	50	50	70	16	17	19
Socially unacceptable behaviour	10	10	10	3	4	3
Low income	—	0	—	—	0	—
Absent parenting	50	50	60	17	15	16
Ethnic origin	300	310	360	100	100	100
White	190	190	230	63	61	63
Mixed	20	30	30	8	9	8
Asian or Asian British	—	—	10	—	—	2
Black or Black British	80	80	90	25	26	24
Other Ethnic groups	—	—	10	—	—	3
Placement	300	310	360	100	100	100
Foster placements	110	150	150	37	46	42
Placed for adoption	0	0	0	0	0	0
Placed with parents	20	20	20	8	6	5
Placed in the community	80	80	100	26	26	28
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	60	50	60	20	15	17
Other residential settings	20	20	20	7	5	5
Residential schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing—absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other placement	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[4] Data on the first child's date of birth was first collected in 2005-06.
[5] The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many young people in the care of a local authority went on to enter *(a)* further and *(b)* higher education in each local authority area in 2007; [202220]

(2) how many young people in the care of a local authority moved into *(a)* hostel and *(b)* bed and breakfast accommodation in each local authority area in 2007; [202227]

(3) how many young people in the care of a local authority were not in education, employment or training in each local authority area in 2007. [202228]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of young people in the care of each local authority who went on to *(a)* further education and *(b)* higher education, as well as the number of young people who were not in education, employment or training is not collected centrally by the Department. However, information on the number of children who are now aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April 2004 but have since left care and are engaged in higher educational studies (i.e. studies beyond A level) or who are not in education, employment or training has been placed in the House of Commons Library (Table LAG1). Table LAG1 is taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007'. The SFR is located at http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml and table LAG1 can be found within the second set of Excel tables on the website. The measures that we are taking through the Care Matters White Paper and the Children and Young Persons Bill, such as requiring local authorities to pay a £2,000 bursary to care leavers who undertake a course in higher education and to provide a personal adviser for care leavers in education up to the age of 25, are designed to help them to achieve their full potential.

Information on the number of children looked after by English local authorities who moved into *(a)* children's homes and hostels and *(b)* independent living during the year ending 31 March 2007 has been placed in the House of Commons Library (Table 1). Where a child moved into either of the aforementioned placements on more than one occasion during the year, he or she has been counted only once.

Table 1: Children looked after who moved into (a) homes and hostels and (b) independent living during the year ending 31 March 2007[1, 2, 3, 4, 5], England

Numbers

	Children looked after who moved into homes and hostels during the year[1, 2, 3]	*Children looked after who moved into independent living during the year[1, 2, 3]*
England	5,500	2,700
North East	320	60
Darlington	15	0
Durham	50	10
Gateshead	20	[6]
Hartlepool	[6]	[6]
Middlesbrough	10	[6]
Newcastle Upon Tyne	60	[6]
North Tyneside	30	[6]
Northumberland	30	[6]
Redcar and Cleveland	5	[6]
South Tyneside	25	5
Stockton-on-Tees	15	10
Sunderland	55	10
North West	1,030	380
Blackburn with Darwen	20	5
Blackpool	30	10
Bolton	40	10
Bury	5	10
Cheshire	50	20
Cumbria	20	10
Halton	10	[6]
Knowsley	25	10
Lancashire	120	35
Liverpool	65	15
Manchester	195	125
Oldham	50	[6]
Rochdale	40	10
Salford	55	25
Sefton	70	[6]
St. Helens	20	[6]
Stockport	50	15
Tameside	30	20
Trafford	25	[6]
Warrington	15	5

Table 1: Children looked after who moved into (a) homes and hostels and (b) independent living during the year ending 31 March 2007[1, 2, 3, 4, 5], England

Numbers

	Children looked after who moved into homes and hostels during the year[1, 2, 3]	Children looked after who moved into independent living during the year[1, 2, 3]
Wigan	40	15
Wirral	55	25
Yorkshire and the Humber	620	300
Barnsley	20	5
Bradford	80	35
Calderdale	40	[6]—
Doncaster	65	10
East Riding of Yorkshire	55	[6]—
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	50	20
Kirklees	30	10
Leeds	55	85
North East Lincolnshire	20	[6]—
North Lincolnshire	25	5
North Yorkshire	35	10
Rotherham	30	10
Sheffield	65	85
Wakefield	35	15
York	20	[6]—
East Midlands	350	180
Derby	45	5
Derbyshire	50	25
Leicester	30	10
Leicestershire	45	15
Lincolnshire	40	25
Northamptonshire	55	45
Nottingham	65	40
Nottinghamshire	15	15
Rutland	0	0
West Midlands	760	180
Birmingham	230	55
Coventry	40	20
Dudley	40	[6]—
Herefordshire	15	[6]—
Sandwell	45	10
Shropshire	30	15
Solihull	5	[6]—
Staffordshire	100	10
Stoke-On-Trent	70	10
Telford and Wrekin	35	[6]—
Walsall	35	10
Warwickshire	10	10
Wolverhampton	45	15
Worcestershire	50	10
East of England	370	230
Bedfordshire	30	15
Cambridgeshire	40	35
Essex	90	60
Hertfordshire	70	30
Luton	35	10
Norfolk	50	10
Peterborough	15	10
Southend-on-Sea	10	25
Suffolk	20	30
Thurrock	10	5
London	1,100	870
Inner London	490	360
Camden	35	15

Table 1: Children looked after who moved into (a) homes and hostels and (b) independent living during the year ending 31 March 2007[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] England

Numbers

	Children looked after who moved into homes and hostels during the year[1, 2, 3]	*Children looked after who moved into independent living during the year[1, 2, 3]*
City of London	[c]	10
Hackney	30	30
Hammersmith and Fulham	20	15
Haringey	55	20
Islington	30	20
Kensington and Chelsea	20	20
Lambeth	40	15
Lewisham	50	20
Newham	40	65
Southwark	50	70
Tower Hamlets	45	30
Wandsworth	40	5
Westminster	30	20
Outer London	610	520
Barking and Dagenham	15	55
Barnet	25	20
Bexley	[c]	25
Brent	40	[c]
Bromley	30	10
Croydon	145	60
Ealing	40	35
Enfield	20	25
Greenwich	60	60
Harrow	15	20
Havering	5	5
Hillingdon	100	160
Hounslow	25	[c]
Kingston upon Thames	10	10
Merton	[c]	0
Redbridge	30	[c]
Richmond Upon Thames	10	[c]
Sutton	10	15
Waltham Forest	15	[c]
South East	570	300
Bracknell Forest	10	[c]
Brighton and Hove	20	20
Buckinghamshire	35	15
East Sussex	30	[c]
Hampshire	105	25
Isle Of Wight	5	10
Kent	100	5
Medway Towns	5	5
Milton Keynes	25	20
Oxfordshire	35	45
Portsmouth	20	10
Reading	10	15
Slough	10	5
Southampton	35	15
Surrey	50	70
West Berkshire	[c]	10
West Sussex	60	15
Windsor and Maidenhead	[c]	[c]
Wokingham	10	5
South West	410	190
Bath and North East Somerset	10	[c]
Bournemouth	5	[c]
Bristol, City of	45	10
Cornwall	60	25
Devon	60	15

Table 1: Children looked after who moved into (a) homes and hostels and (b) independent living during the year ending 31 March 2007[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]. England

Numbers

	Children looked after who moved into homes and hostels during the year[1, 2, 3]	*Children looked after who moved into independent living during the year[1, 2, 5]*
Dorset	10	25
Gloucestershire	45	15
Isles Of Scilly	0	0
North Somerset	[6]	[6]
Plymouth	15	15
Poole	[6]	10
Somerset	85	20
South Gloucestershire	[6]	25
Swindon	[6]	10
Torbay	20	15
Wiltshire	30	

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Children looked after at any time during the year ending 31 March.
[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[4] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. All numbers which appear in the national summary tables have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers from one to five inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by a [6]. At local council level the England totals have been rounded either to the nearest 10, or the nearest 100 following the rule outlined above. Regional totals and totals for the number of children placed outside England have been rounded to the nearest 10. All other numbers have been rounded to the nearest five, and numbers from one to five inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the published table by a [6].
[5] Where a child has moved into *(a)* a home or hostel or *(b)* independent living on more than one occasion during the year, he or she has been counted only once.
[6] Numbers from one to five.

Children in Care: Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained schools did not give priority to children in care in their 2007-08 admission arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [201111]

Jim Knight: We do not collect that data centrally. However, we recently carried out an analysis of the 2008-09 admission arrangements adopted by schools in three local authority areas—Barnet, Manchester and Nottinghamshire—which showed that although a large majority complied with the school admissions code and admissions legislation, a significant minority of schools appeared to have adopted unlawful arrangements.

The Secretary of State made a statement to Parliament on 2 April on measures being taken to improve the admissions system, which also included details about the evidence gathered, which showed that 58 out of 570 schools across the three local authority areas failed to give children in care the unequivocal highest priority in school admission arrangements as required by law. This information is available in the House Library:

Children: Dyslexia

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment his Department has made of the efficacy of the reading recovery initiative for dyslexic children; [201774]

(2) what provision has been made for teaching dyslexic children within his Department's *(a)* Every Child a Reader, *(b)* Every Child a Writer and *(c)* Every Child Counts initiatives. [201775]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* Evaluations of the Every Child a Reader pilot—which provides Reading Recovery for children from among those having the most difficulties in learning to read—were published in 2006 and 2007. These are available on

www.everychildareader.org.uk.

The evaluation of Every Child a Reader in London in 2005/06 showed that 87 per cent. of children who had received Reading Recovery were considered to have made average to exceptional progress in reading comprehension. However, these evaluations did not include looking at the efficacy of Reading Recovery for children with dyslexia.

Our commitment through the primary and secondary national strategies is to ensure Quality First teaching for all. The Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts initiatives are focused on providing additional intervention for the 5 per cent. of children facing the most difficulties with reading and mathematics. They do not provide a specific focus on provision for children with dyslexia. Every Child a Reader is being rolled out to reach 30,000 children a year by 2010/11.

Every Child Counts is currently in a research phase and will be informed by the Williams review of the teaching of mathematics which is due to be published in June this year. The intention is that Every Child Counts will be aimed at children whose attainment in the early stages of mathematics shows they are not making expected progress for their age.

Every Child a Writer is a new programme announced at the end of last year. The intention—as stated in our Children's Plan—is that this will offer support later in primary school than Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts and will reach a greater number of pupils. Further announcements will be made about Every Child a Writer in due course.

The SEN Code of Practice says that "effective management, school ethos and the learning environment, curricular, pastoral and discipline arrangements can help prevent some special educational needs arising, and minimise others" (paragraph 5:18). Where whole

school arrangements for teaching and learning are not addressing a child's learning difficulties, schools have a statutory duty to do their best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs. It follows that if a child with dyslexia is not benefiting from participation in any or all of the three initiatives, the school must make additional or different arrangements to address the child's special educational needs.

Departmental Operating Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 183W, on operating costs, what the administrative costs of his Department's predecessor were in each year from 1990-91 to 2006-07 in real terms using 2005-06 prices. [201305]

Ed Balls: The administrative costs from 1990-91 to 2006-07 for the Departments which preceded the Department for Children, Schools and Families, adjusted to 2005-06 prices using the latest GDP deflators, are set out in the following table.

	Total net admin costs (£ million)
Department for Education	
1990-91	127
1991-92	133
1992-93	128
1993-94	114
Department for Education and Employment	
1994-95	389
1995-96	357
1996-97	333
1997-98	289
1998-99	283
1999-2000	286
2000-01	266
Department for Education and Skills	
2001-02	261
2002-03	242
2003-04	250
2004-05	264
2005-06	240
2006-07	237

Departmental Publications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many guidance notes to *(a)* schools and *(b)* local authorities have been issued by his Department, its predecessors and its agencies in each (i) year, (ii) quarter and (iii) month since 1 January 1997; and if he will make a statement. [201198]

Kevin Brennan: The number of documents sent to all primary and secondary schools is detailed in the table attached at Annex A. Where a document has been sent to both primary and secondary schools it will appear in the totals for both. The Department stopped sending regular paper mailings to schools in December 2004, replacing them with a regular fortnightly e-mail which allows schools to order the required numbers of documents at their discretion.

The guidance notes issued to local authorities are generally intended to help front-line staff to understand and implement their statutory duties effectively and improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The data available for this year and last are set out at Annex B.

Statistical data on the numbers issued is not normally collected and the cost would be prohibitive to supply figures for every guidance note we have issued for the 10-year period requested.

Annex A: (a) guidance notes issued to schools

	Primary	*Secondary*
1997-98	86	85
1998-99	96	115
1999-2000	146	164
2000-01	47	48
2001-02	55	54
2002-03	39	43
2003-04	31	38
2004-05	0	0

Annex B: (b) guidance notes issued to local authorities

	2008	*2007*
January	7	3
February	9	2
March	7	9
1st quarter	23	14
April	4	7
May	—	7
June	—	1
2nd quarter	—	15
July	—	7
August	—	4
September	—	11
3rd quarter	—	22
October	—	5
November	—	9
December	—	9
4th quarter	—	23
Total	27	74

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many working days were lost by his Department owing to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198945]

Kevin Brennan: The percentage of working days lost owing to sickness absence in 1 July to 31 December was 15 per cent. of all working days. The recorded total of working days lost was 1,583 compared to 10,404 working days lost for all sickness absences, and 680 days were lost in the latest quarter (1 January to 31

March 2008). Sickness absence information is collected quarterly in my Department, but monthly information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has introduced a range of measures to support managers and employees on health and wellbeing issues, including the provision of professional counselling and support from the Department's Employee Assistance Provider, Right Corecare. The Department has piloted a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Stress Questionnaire in one part of the organisation and conducted Individual Stress Risk Assessments for employees who require them. It will shortly be launching a comprehensive Stress Prevention Policy, based on HSE Management Standards.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets apply to his Department's performance in 2008; which targets have been *(a)* dropped and *(b)* amended since January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [201133]

Jim Knight: The DCSF was responsible for 12 public service agreements (PSAs) from the 2004 spending review, which ended in 2007-08. Over the 2007 comprehensive spending review period, which runs from 2008-09 to 2010-11, my Department has six departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) and leads five cross-governmental PSAs. Details are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/9/pbr_csr07_annexd1_189.pdf

and on the DCSF website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/dsoindicators/

The 12 PSA targets over the 2004 spending review period, which ended in 2008, were underpinned by 20 indicators. Of these, 11 indicators underpin the five PSAs which the DCSF leads over the 2007 comprehensive spending review period. The remaining indicators underpin DSOs or, in the case of PE and school sport, a PSA led by another Department. Full details of the transition will be set out in the forthcoming DCSF departmental report, a copy of which will be placed in the House Library.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the education maintenance allowance is available to children aged younger than 16 who have taken their GCSEs early and are in further education; and if he will make a statement. [201077]

Jim Knight: Young people who are of compulsory school age when taking up further education are not eligible for education maintenance allowance (EMA) on the grounds of their age. EMA is not based on the academic level a pupil reaches. It is targeted at those who reach the end of their compulsory school phase and who have the option of dropping out of learning.

The purpose of EMA is to remove barriers to learning, and increase participation and retention rates among learners who can legally leave education. Therefore, EMA is not available to learners who by law must remain in education.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what forecast he has made of his Department's expenditure on education maintenance allowance over the next 10 years. [201686]

Jim Knight: The forecast expenditure for education maintenance allowance over the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period is £531 million/£544 million/£560 million in financial years 2008-09/2009-10/2010-11. Forecasts of expenditure beyond this period are not available.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much schools spent on re-marking *(a)* GCSE, *(b)* A and AS level and *(c)* key stage 3 SAT papers in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [200313]

Jim Knight: The fees for re-marking of national curriculum tests are published by the NAA (National Assessment Agency) test operations agency each year and can be found on the Qualification and Curriculum Authority's website at http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_11997.aspx The NAA does not keep specific information on how much schools paid to the test operations agency for re-marking key stage 3 test papers via the review process.

The Department does not collect information on re-marking costs for GCSE, A and AS-level papers. The data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average annual cost to schools of delivering *(a)* Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 national tests, *(b)* GCSEs and *(c)* A-Levels and AS-Levels; and if he will make a statement. [201206]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority estimates the costs of delivering the national tests for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 in 2007/08 to be some £51 million. This is the cost of the delivery contracts for tests. Schools do not pay fees for tests.

GCSEs, and AS and A-Levels are administered by independent awarding bodies. The costs incurred by all local authority maintained schools for test administration and examination entry fees and any accreditation costs related to pupils taking GCSEs, GNVQs, AS and A2 qualifications in 2006-07, which is the most recent year for which figures are available, totalled some £241 million.

The new independent qualifications regulator, Ofqual, will be responsible for regulating the awarding body market to ensure good value for money alongside its responsibilities for maintaining standards. Subject to legislation, we intend that Ofqual will report annually to Parliament on this issue.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children attained *(a)* Level 1, *(b)* Level 2, *(c)* Level 3, *(d)* Level 4 and *(e)* Level 5 in (i) Key Stage 1 and (ii)

Key Stage 2 tests in each year since those tests were introduced; and if he will make a statement. [201320]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the following links. The link

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000740/index.shtml

is for Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 1 in England 2007". Table 2 provides time series information (2001-2007) on average point scores and table 3 provides information about levels achieved by pupils assessed in 2007. The link

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000764/index.shtml

is for "National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2007 (Revised)". Table 1 provides time series information (1995-2007) about test levels achieved by pupils. Copies of these publications have been placed in the Library of the House.

Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of education spending in England as a proportion of gross domestic product, expressed to two decimal places, in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [201098]

Jim Knight: Education spend as a proportion of GDP is available only for the UK. The Government will increase UK spending in education as a proportion of GDP from 4.68 per cent. in 1996-97 to 5.55 per cent. in 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. The full run of figures from 1996-97 to 2010-11 is tabled as follows:

Total Government UK education spend as a proportion of GDP

	Percentage
1996-97	4.68
1997-98	4.51
1998-99	4.43
1999-2000	4.40
2000-01	4.58
2001-02	4.89
2002-03	4.90
2003-04	5.14
2004-05	5.23
2005-06	5.37
2006-07	5.40
2007-08	5.53
2008-09	5.55
2009-10	5.55
2010-11	5.64

Educational Psychology: Manpower

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many full-time equivalent educational psychologists each children's services local authority in England employed at the latest date for which a figure is available; [200520]

(2) how many children and young people aged under 20 years old there are per educational psychologist in each children's services local authority in England at the latest date for which figures are available; [200521]

(3) if he will consider issuing guidance to children's services in local authorities in England on the number of educational psychologists who should be employed in each local authority; and if he will make a statement on ensuring an adequate supply of qualified educational psychologists. [200522]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of educational psychologists (EPs) and the number of children per EP employed in local authority maintained schools in each local authority in England in January 2007.

Some local authorities may purchase EP services from other authorities and therefore do not show any EPs in service.

EPs are a key means of supporting some of our most vulnerable children and young people. They play an important role both in assessing individual children's special educational needs and in helping schools to address those needs and behavioural, emotional and social issues.

EPs are employed by local authorities, and it is for those authorities to determine how many to employ in the light of their assessment of local needs and available resources.

It is clearly important that there should be a secure supply of trained EPs to match predicted vacancies. We have asked the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to act as an intermediary body to oversee subscription arrangements for local authority funding of EP entry training, which replace the previous topslice funding. The CWDC has written to local authorities requesting subscriptions to the 2008 entry training fund, and my noble Friend the Lord Adonis, the Under-Secretary of State responsible for schools and learners, has also written to local authority chief executive officers and directors of children's services emphasising the importance of authorities' supporting training arrangements.

Full-time equivalent educational psychologists employed in each local authority in England, January 2007

	FTE educational psychologists	Number of children per educational psychologist[1]
City of London	[2]	[2]
Camden	14	3,180
Greenwich	16	3,710
Hackney	15	3,700
Hammersmith and Fulham	11	3,190
Islington	14	2,840
Kensington and Chelsea	6	5,590
Lambeth	15	3,930
Lewisham	11	5,680
Southwark	17	3,660
Tower Hamlets	15	3,630
Wandsworth	12	4,220
City of Westminster	9	4,470
Barking and Dagenham	14	3,410
Barnet	14	5,840

Full-time equivalent educational psychologists employed in each local authority in England, January 2007

	FTE educational psychologists	Number of children per educational psychologist[1]
Bexley	10	5,910
Brent	13	4,850
Bromley	13	5,630
Croydon	14	6,340
Ealing	18	4,010
Enfield	18	4,070
Haringey	13	4,310
Harrow	10	5,380
Havering	10	5,630
Hillingdon	10	6,310
Hounslow	12	4,340
Kingston upon Thames	11	3,380
Merton	10	4,410
Newham	12	5,930
Redbridge	10	6,440
Richmond upon Thames	5	8,230
Sutton	8	5,670
Waltham Forest	12	4,820
Birmingham	47	6,070
Coventry	13	6,190
Dudley	11	6,890
Sandwell	15	5,000
Solihull	12	4,400
Walsall	12	5,610
Wolverhampton	21	2,900
Knowsley	7	5,800
Liverpool	15	7,000
St. Helens	9	5,180
Sefton	14	4,880
Wirral	13	6,100
Bolton	10	7,210
Bury	8	6,220
Manchester	20	5,620
Oldham	10	6,250
Rochdale	8	7,010
Salford	13	4,200
Stockport	15	4,700
Tameside	12	4,440
Trafford	9	6,110
Wigan	12	6,150
Barnsley	[2]—	[2]—
Doncaster	9	8,520
Rotherham	8	7,650
Sheffield	19	6,740
Bradford	17	8,080
Calderdale	6	8,010
Kirklees	26	4,110
Leeds	29	6,160
Wakefield	12	6,680
Gateshead	11	4,170
Newcastle upon Tyne	12	5,370
North Tyneside	10	4,630
South Tyneside	15	2,460
Sunderland	10	6,480
Isles of Scilly	[2]—	[2]—
Bath and North East Somerset	[2]—	[2]—
City of Bristol	26	3,610
North Somerset	8	5,860
South Gloucestershire	13	5,620
Hartlepool	5	4,760
Middlesbrough	6	6,230
Redcar and Cleveland	6	5,710
Stockton-on-Tees	9	5,290
City of Kingston Upon Hull	12	5,300
East Riding of Yorkshire	22	3,490
North East Lincolnshire	8	4,910
North Lincolnshire	7	5,490
North Yorkshire	16	8,750
York	7	5,790
Bedfordshire	15	6,780
Luton	7	7,080
Buckinghamshire	24	5,220
Milton Keynes	13	4,550
Derbyshire	27	6,630
City of Derby	12	4,800
Dorset	17	5,300
Poole	7	4,860
Bournemouth	9	3,940
Durham	24	4,870
Darlington	5	5,000
East Sussex	18	6,490
Brighton and Hove	8	6,600
Hampshire	52	5,960
Portsmouth	7	6,670
Southampton	14	3,730
Leicestershire	22	7,040
Leicester City	24	3,310
Rutland	[2]—	[2]—
Staffordshire	31	6,290
Stoke on Trent	13	4,500
Wiltshire	24	4,740
Swindon	9	4,960
Bracknell Forest	5	6,460
Windsor and Maidenhead	8	4,660
West Berkshire	9	4,320
Reading	5	6,270
Slough	9	3,430
Wokingham	7	5,750
Cambridgeshire	19	7,500
Peterborough	8	5,350
Cheshire	24	6,920
Halton	6	5,210
Warrington	9	5,310
Devon	35	4,710
Plymouth	[2]—	[2]—
Torbay	[2]—	[2]—
Essex	45	7,340
Southend on Sea	7	5,510
Thurrock	6	6,590
Herefordshire	8	4,960
Worcestershire	28	4,600
Kent	47	7,280
Medway	9	7,880
Lancashire	45	6,410
Blackburn with Darwen	12	3,690
Blackpool	6	6,130
Nottinghamshire	26	6,920
Nottingham	14	4,910
Shropshire	[2]—	[2]—

Full-time equivalent educational psychologists employed in each local authority in England, January 2007

	FTE educational psychologists	Number of children per educational psychologists[1]
Telford and Wrekin	16	2,790
Cornwall	21	5,730
Cumbria	20	5,640
Gloucestershire	22	6,300
Hertfordshire	42	6,430
Isle of Wight	5	6,110
Lincolnshire	21	7,390
Norfolk	26	7,130
Northamptonshire	28	6,000
Northumberland	14	5,180
Oxfordshire	25	6,180
Somerset	29	4,340
Suffolk	20	8,550
Surrey	41	6,420
Warwickshire	22	5,580
West Sussex	2,180	5,660
England	2,180	5,660

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Fewer than 5.
Note:
Barnsley, Isle of Scilly, Bath and North East Somerset, Rutland, Plymouth and Shropshire do not directly employ educational psychologists therefore no ratio is available for these authorities.
Source:
The annual survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g.
DCSF estimates (number of children).

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199197]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Internally (i) all correspondence is carried out electronically and (ii) distribution of publications is monitored by exception, as all publishing is online barring the bi-monthly staff magazine. *(b)* (i) Most external correspondence received in the Department is processed through the central Public Communications Unit, which monitors the method of response. In 2007 63 per cent. of correspondence was replied to electronically. *(b)* (ii) The Department has put in place a range of protocols which govern e-mail communications to key stakeholders including all schools all local authorities.

Extended Schools: Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of delivering the extended schools programme in each year from 2007-08 to 2012-13. [200980]

Beverley Hughes: From 2007-08 local authorities were given £238 million to support the development of extended schools in their area. In 2008-09 to 2010-11 a total of £1.3 billion of funding will be made available. Schools are also given an additional £150 million each year through the schools standards grant which can support extended schools activities.

During 2007-08, a total of £9.7 million was split across the three national extended schools delivery partners to help schools and local authorities to deliver extended services. For 2008-09, a total of £9.9 million will be made available. We cannot estimate the costs from 2009 onwards, as the allocation of funding for the delivery partners is completed on an annual basis.

Faith Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary faith schools there were in England in each year from 1997, broken down by faith; and if he will make a statement. [201196]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the following link

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

to Statistical First Release "Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)". Table 8 gives the information requested for the most recent year; figures for earlier years are available in equivalent publications for those years.

The earliest year for which this information is available electronically is 1998. Figures for this year can be found in volume 'Schools in England 1998', which is available via the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000130/index.shtml

Copies of these publications are available in the Libraries of the House. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Folkestone Academy: Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were *(a)* permanently and *(b)* temporarily excluded from Folkestone Academy in each month since September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [201066]

Kevin Brennan: Folkestone Academy did not open until September 2007 and therefore information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions is not yet available.

Information on exclusions from schools is derived from School Census returns made by schools to the Department. Data on exclusions are collected two terms in arrears, with exclusions data for autumn term 2007 being returned via the May 2008 Census.

Foundation Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted (i) trust and (ii) foundation status in each (A) month and (B) quarter since 1 January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [201128]

Jim Knight: Schools do not have to apply to the Department for Children, Schools and Families to become a trust or foundation school. A change of school category to foundation and the acquisition of a trust are 'prescribed alterations'. To make such a prescribed alteration the governing body must publish statutory proposals in accordance with provisions are set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Since 25 May 2007 proposals are decided by the governing body (or the Schools Adjudicator where proposals to acquire a trust have been referred by the local authority). There is no role for Ministers in the decision-making process.

To date 57 schools have acquired a trust under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. 108 schools have changed category to foundation since January 2005. These are broken down by month and quarter as follows.

	Foundation schools		*Trust schools*
Year/ month	*Published*[2]	*Approved*[1]	*Acquired*
2005			
January	—	—	—
February	—	—	—
March	1	1	—
Quarterly total	1	1	—
April	—	—	—
May	—	—	—
June	1	1	—
Quarterly total	1	1	—
July	1	1	—
August	—	—	—
September	—	—	—
Quarterly total	1	1	—
October	3	3	—
November	4	4	—
December	1	1	—
Quarterly total	8	8	—
2006			
January	8	8	—
February	3	3	—
March	2	2	—
Quarterly total	13	13	—
April	4	4	—
May	2	2	—
June	4	4	—
Quarterly total	10	10	—
July	4	4	—
August	—	—	—
September	6	6	—
Quarterly total	10	10	—
October	4	4	—
November	2	2	—
December	1	1	—
Quarterly total	7	7	—
2007			
January	5	5	—
February	4	4	—
March	4	4	—
Quarterly total	13	13	—
April	2	2	—
May	3	3	—
June	5	5	—
Quarterly total	10	10	—
July	—	—	—
August	1	1	1
September	3	3	29
Quarterly total	4	4	30
October	3	3	—
November	9	8	1
December	5	5	1
Quarterly total	17	16	2
2008			
January	10	8	5
February	9	6	1
March	5	—	5
Quarterly total	24	14	11
April	4	—	14

[1] Prior to 25 May 2007, proposals to change category to foundation were decided either by the Schools Organisation Committee or the school's governing body in accordance with the statutory provisions that applied at the time.

In addition to the schools included in the aforementioned table, 19 schools have published proposals to change category to foundation and acquire a foundation—the Department is awaiting confirmation that these particular foundations have been established.

Acquiring a trust or foundation is a way for a range of schools in different circumstances to raise standards, from those that are currently under-performing to those that are leading the way in the education sector as a whole. Trusts are a way for schools to strengthen collaboration and spread best practice among other schools, drawing on the expertise and energy of their partners to support their strategic leadership.

385 schools are on the Trust and Foundation Schools Support programme where they have access to advice and guidance on the processes associated with acquiring a trust and/or foundation.

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals who do not take up their entitlement; and if he will make a statement. [201177]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available.

We do not collect information on the number of pupils who may be eligible for free school meals but do not register as eligible.

GCE A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of eligible pupils were entered for an A-level examination in 2007, broken down by *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* multiple deprivation decile. [201684]

Jim Knight: Information on pupils entered into GCE/VCE/applied A-levels and double awards broken down by multiple deprivation decile can be found in the "DCSF: GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006/07 (Revised)" statistical first release (SFR), found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000769/index.shtml

Information broken down by local authority is given as follows. The proportion of eligible pupils can not be provided as DCSF does not hold information on the number of eligible pupils at A-level.

Number of pupils entered for a GCE/VCE A-level in 2006/07

		Number
201	City of London	186
202	Camden	1,164
203	Greenwich	821
204	Hackney	324
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,071
206	Islington	589
207	Kensington and Chelsea	1,112
208	Lambeth	340
209	Lewisham	1,162
210	Southwark	849
211	Tower Hamlets	592
212	Wandsworth	1,251
213	Westminster	1,438
301	Barking and Dagenham	503
302	Barnet	2,823
303	Bexley	1,116
304	Brent	1,127
305	Bromley	2,298
306	Croydon	1,800
307	Ealing	1,101
308	Enfield	1,473
309	Haringey	724
310	Harrow	1,470
311	Havering	1,352
312	Hillingdon	1,437
313	Hounslow	1,281
314	Kingston upon Thames	1,376
315	Merton	455
316	Newham	744
317	Redbridge	2,055
318	Richmond upon Thames	1,515
319	Sutton	1,628
320	Waltham Forest	1,350
330	Birmingham	4,556
331	Coventry	1,380
332	Dudley	1,696
333	Sandwell	384
334	Solihull	1,454
335	Walsall	1,014
336	Wolverhampton	1,159
340	Knowsley	228
341	Liverpool	1,806
342	St. Helens	917
343	Sefton	1,754
344	Wirral	1,945
350	Bolton	1,199
351	Bury	1,392
352	Manchester	2,376
353	Oldham	1,305
354	Rochdale	325
355	Salford	637
356	Stockport	1,736
357	Tameside	729
358	Trafford	996
359	Wigan	1,487
370	Barnsley	422
371	Doncaster	1,044
372	Rotherham	1,246
373	Sheffield	1,985
380	Bradford	1,924
381	Calderdale	867
382	Kirklees	1,935
383	Leeds	3,156
384	Wakefield	1,387
390	Gateshead	640
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	1,436
392	North Tyneside	811
393	South Tyneside	363
394	Sunderland	777
800	Bath and North East Somerset	1,182
801	City of Bristol	2,026
802	North Somerset	756
803	South Gloucestershire	1,094
805	Hartlepool	334
806	Middlesbrough	555
807	Redcar and Cleveland	590
808	Stockton on Tees	840
810	City of Kingston-upon-Hull	1,001
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	1,324
812	North East Lincolnshire	688
813	North Lincolnshire	858
815	North Yorkshire	3,632
816	York	1,056
820	Bedfordshire	2,380
821	Luton	726
825	Buckinghamshire	3,411
826	Milton Keynes	958
830	Derbyshire	2,845
831	City of Derby	946

Number of pupils entered for a GCE/VCE A-level in 2006/07

		Number
835	Dorset	2,192
836	Poole	977
837	Bournemouth	519
840	Durham	1,579
841	Darlington	803
845	East Sussex	2,488
846	Brighton and Hove	1,878
850	Hampshire	8,774
851	Portsmouth	387
852	Southampton	771
855	Leicestershire	3,586
856	Leicester City	1,630
857	Rutland	296
860	Staffordshire	3,591
861	Stoke-on-Trent	814
865	Wiltshire	2,243
866	Swindon	745
867	Bracknell Forest	631
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	1,093
869	West Berkshire	1,277
870	Reading	606
871	Slough	644
872	Wokingham	943
873	Cambridgeshire	3,503
874	Peterborough	812
875	Cheshire	3,892
876	Halton	431
877	Warrington	885
878	Devon	3,424
879	Plymouth	1,101
880	Torbay	693
881	Essex	6,282
882	Southend	885
883	Thurrock	550
884	Herefordshire	928
885	Worcestershire	3,147
886	Kent	7,608
887	Medway	1,289
888	Lancashire	4,292
889	Blackburn	844
890	Blackpool	728
891	Nottinghamshire	2,939
892	Nottingham City	1,611
893	Shropshire	1,802
894	Telford and Wrekin	811
908	Cornwall	2,143
909	Cumbria	2,497
916	Gloucestershire	3,857
919	Hertfordshire	7,721
921	Isle of Wight	511
925	Lincolnshire	3,243
926	Norfolk	3,397
928	Northamptonshire	3,353
929	Northumberland	1,323
931	Oxfordshire	4,184
933	Somerset	3,162
935	Suffolk	3,267
936	Surrey	7,968
937	Warwickshire	3,029
938	West Sussex	3,886
	Total	254,662

Note:
Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006) in all schools and colleges.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the performance of *(a)* school sixth forms and *(b)* sixth form colleges in relation to A-levels; and if he will make a statement. [201406]

Jim Knight: Level 3 (equivalent to two or more A-levels) is broadly similar, once young people's prior attainment at Level 2 (equivalent to five GCSEs A*-C) is taken into account.

Internal analysis shows the average Level 3 attainment score per qualification entry for a sixth form college student is around 2 points higher than for a school sixth-form student, with a similar level of prior attainment. Across a three A-level package of qualifications, the average difference in attainment would be around 6 points which is the equivalent of around a third of a grade. While this difference is statistically significant it is small.

Sixth-form colleges and larger school sixth forms—either operating individually or as part of a consortium—do an outstanding job and are popular with parents and students. We want to encourage more high quality provision of this type, often working in partnership, in order to overcome England's unacceptably low participation rate in education beyond GCSE. Collaboration between schools, and between schools and colleges, will be essential to ensuring that we have a high quality offer for all young people and to support the successful delivery of the 14-19 reform programme.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of pupils gaining five A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics, were awarded five C grades in 2007; [200326]

(2) what proportion of pupils gaining five A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics, were awarded a C grade in both English and mathematics in 2007. [200328]

Jim Knight: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many otherwise eligible pupils were not entered for any GCSE examinations in the last year for which figures are available. [200329]

Jim Knight: There were 12,178 (1.88 per cent.) out of a total of 649,159 eligible pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 not entered for any GCSE examinations in the 2006/07 academic year.

However, only 3,099 (0.48 per cent.) out of a total of 649,159 eligible pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 were not entered for any GCSE or equivalent examinations in the 2006/07 academic year. This includes other qualifications approved for use pre-16 such as NVQs, Key Skills and Entry Level Qualifications.

Further information on GCSE examination entry and achievement can be found in the Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07' available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many year 11 children did not achieve *(a)* five A* to C GCSEs and *(b)* five A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics, in each year from 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [201065]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the following table:

	Total number of pupils[1] (thousand)	*Percentage who did not achieve*		*Number of students who did not achieve (thousand)*	
		5+ A-C grades*	*5+ A*-C grades inc. English and mathematics GCSEs*	*5+ A*-C grades*	*5+ A*-C grades inc. English and mathematics GCSEs*
15 year olds					
1995-96	594	55.5	64.8	330	385
1996-97[2]	587	54.9	64.4	322	378
1997-98	575	53.7	63.0	309	362
1998-99	581	52.1	61.4	303	357
1999-2000	580	50.8	60.0	295	348
2000-01	603	50.0	59.3	302	358
2001-02	607	48.4	57.9	294	351
2002-03	622	47.1	58.1	293	361
2003-04[3]	644	46.3	57.4	298	369
2004-05	637	43.7	55.7	278	355
2005-06	649	41.5	54.7	269	355
2006-07	656	39.2	54.0	257	354
Pupils at End Key Stage 4					
2004-05	633	42.9	55.1	272	349
2005-06	646	40.8	54.2	264	350
2006-07	649	38.0	53.3	247	346

1. Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year or from 2004-05 end of Key Stage 4 figures are the number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in that academic year.
2. Percentages from 1996-97 include GCSEs and GNVQs.
3. Percentages from 2003-04 include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.

Further information on GCSE examination achievement can be found in the Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006-07' available at:

http://www.dcsfgov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets he has set for the proportion of pupils achieving *(a)* five A* to C GCSEs and *(b)* five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics by (i) 2010 and (ii) 2020; and if he will make a statement. [201075]

Jim Knight: The existing suite of Public Service Agreements (PSAs) targets expires this year, and as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), a new set of PSAs and national targets is to be delivered by 2011. No formal GCSE targets are due for delivery in 2010.

There are currently no formal targets set for 2020, although the Children's Plan, launched last December, sets out the ambition that by 2020 at least 90 per cent. of young people should achieve the equivalent of five higher GCSEs at age 19.

In addition, the new PSA targets have a dual focus on ensuring that pupils reach the levels expected for their age in both English and mathematics (threshold targets) and improving the rates of progress made by pupils from ages 5 to 16 (new progression targets) with increased attention to achieving faster progress for underachieving groups such as children in care and minority ethnic pupils.

The progression targets will be a major factor in helping all pupils—regardless of their background and circumstances—to realise their potential in English and mathematics in particular. By 2011 we want to see a 15 percentage point improvement in the number of pupils making two levels of progress in English and a 13 percentage point improvement in those making two levels of progress in mathematics between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

The Key Stage 4 (GCSE) threshold target is for 53 per cent. of pupils to achieve 5A*-C GCSEs (and equivalent), including GCSEs in both English and maths by 2011.

In the Budget announcement of 12 March 2008, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced new funding to bring forward by a year to 2011 the Government's ambition for no school to have less than 30 per cent. of its pupils achieving 5 A*-C at GCSE, including English and maths. This programme is called the National Challenge.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on pupils' average GCSE grades of moving to modular GCSEs from September 2009; and if he will make a statement; [201085]

(2) what proportion of GCSEs will be examined in modular form in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011; and what proportion were so examined in 2005. [201086]

Jim Knight: It has been open to awarding bodies to propose either linear or modular GCSEs for a considerable time. In 2005 around 27 per cent. of GCSE specifications on which young people were examined were modular. Following changes to GCSE science specifications for first teaching in 2006, around 35 per cent. of specifications are now modular and these will apply to qualifications awarded up to 2010.

GCSE criteria for all subjects other than English, mathematics, ICT and science were revised in 2007, and the provisions allowing either linear or modular GCSEs remained unchanged. Awarding bodies have recently submitted new GCSE specifications for accreditation for first teaching in September 2009. It is not possible to say what proportion of GCSE specifications examined in 2011 will be in modular form until decisions have been taken on accreditation by Ofqual, the independent regulator of qualifications. The outcome of the accreditation process will be made public in the summer.

It is Ofqual's responsibility, as regulator, to ensure that standards are maintained so that students achieve the appropriate grade based on their knowledge, understanding and skills, regardless of whether the specification they are studying is modular or not. All GCSE specifications require that students undertake at least 40 per cent. of their assessment at the end of the course, and students are only able to retake individual modules of their GCSEs once.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of eligible pupils were not entered for an English, mathematics, science nor foreign language GCSE in each year since 1997. [201239]

Jim Knight: The readily available information is as follows:

There were 367.2 thousand pupils, approximately 57 per cent. of eligible pupils, who were not entered for English, mathematics, science and a modern language GCSE at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2006/07 academic year.

There were 332.7 thousand pupils, approximately 52 per cent. of eligible pupils, who were not entered for English, mathematics, science and a modern language GCSE at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2005/2006 academic year.

There were 269.8 thousand pupils, approximately 43 per cent. of eligible pupils, who were not entered for English, mathematics, science and a modern language GCSE at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2004/05 academic year.

Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The latest information on GCSE examination entry and achievement can be found in the Statistical First Release "GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07" available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of Key Stage 4 pupils achieved no GCSEs at grade C or higher in each year from 1997 to 2007. [201306]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the following table.

	Percentage of pupils achieving no GCSEs at grade C or higher	*Number of pupils achieving no GCSEs at grade C or higher (to the nearest 100)*
1996/97	27.8	159,000
1997/98	26.9	150,700
1998/99	27.4	159,200
1999/2000	26.4	153,200
2000/01	26.0	156,900
2001/02	24.8	150,400
2002/03	24.2	150,600
2003/04	24.2	153,700
2004/05	21.5	136,200
2005/06	20.1	129,800
2006/07	17.5	113,600

Note:
Figures up to and including 2003/04 are based on 15-year-old pupils (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August). Figures from 2004/05 onwards are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in which local authority areas more than 80 per cent. of secondary schools did not have over 50 per cent. of pupils achieving five or more A* to C GCSEs in 2007, including English and mathematics; [201471]

(2) how many and what proportion of secondary schools did not have 30 per cent. or more of Key Stage 4 pupils obtaining at least five A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics, for each year from 1990 to 2007; and if he will make a statement; [201055]

(3) what the top 10 schools by *(a)* contextual value-added scores and *(b)* improved GCSE results over the previous year were in 2007; [201056]

(4) which 20 local authorities had the highest proportion of secondary school children in schools achieving less than 30 per cent. five A* to C grade at

GCSE including English and mathematics in 2007; and if he will make a statement; [201060]

(5) which 20 local authorities had the lowest performance in terms of the change in the proportion of their Key Stage 4 pupils achieving five or more A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics between 1997 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [201050]

Jim Knight: The information for the past four years can be obtained from the Achievement and Attainment Tables found in the House of Commons Library. Information for other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of white British boys eligible for free school meals achieved *(a)* no GCSE passes and *(b)* fewer than five GCSE passes at grade A* to C including English and mathematics in each year since 1995. [201051]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the following table; further information covering earlier years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of white British boys at the end of Key Stage 4 on free school meals	*Percentage who did not achieve:* 5+ A*-C at GCSE and equivalents	5+ A*-C at GCSE and equivalents including English and mathematics	Any qualification
2004/05	27,356	78.5	87.3	10.7
2005/06	27,908	75.6	86.1	8.9
2006/07	26,893	73.0	85.1	7.5

Note:
1. Figures based on pupil at the end of Key Stage 4 in each academic year.
2. Figures include all qualifications approved for use pre-16.
3. English and mathematics figures included are for GCSE full courses only.

Gifted Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether schools are required to inform parents when their children are identified as gifted and talented; and if he will make a statement. [201079]

Jim Knight: There is no legal requirement for schools to inform parents when their children are identified as gifted and talented but we strongly encourage all schools to do so as children benefit from the involvement of parents in support for their learning.

Gifted Children: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his most recent estimate is of spending by his Department on the gifted and talented programme in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; and if he will make a statement; [200987]

(2) how much has been spent on the gifted and talented programme in each year since it was established; [201081]

(3) how much his Department plans to spend on the gifted and talented programme in each of the next five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [201082]

Jim Knight: The Department has historically spent between £10-£20 million annually on delivering gifted and talented education. Information on the cost of the contracts to deliver the gifted and talented programme is commercial in confidence. Projected figures after 2011 are not available because of the spending review.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the funding awarded to schools to support children identified as gifted and talented is ring-fenced; and if he will make a statement. [201080]

Jim Knight: Primary and secondary schools are together receiving some £1 billion, last financial year and this (i.e. 2006-08), to support personalised education for all pupils, including gifted and talented learners. The proportion of this funding that schools have available for gifted and talented education is decided locally.

Grammar Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attended grammar schools in each year since 1996; what proportion of the secondary school population this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [201181]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following table:

Grammar schools: Number and percentage of pupils[1, 2], position in January each year, 1996 to 2007, England

	Grammar schools		*All secondary schools*
	Number of pupils[1, 3]	*Percentage of pupils[3]*	*Number of pupils[1, 2]*
1996	127,710	4.2	3,024,750
1997	128,710	4.2	3,056,870

Grammar schools: Number and percentage of pupils[1, 2], position in January each year, 1996 to 2007, England

	Grammar schools		All secondary schools
	Number of pupils[1, 2]	Percentage of pupils[3]	Number of pupils[1, 2]
1998	130,320	4.2	3,088,620
1999	140,880	4.5	3,138,090
2000	141,390	4.4	3,198,410
2001	142,340	4.4	3,248,610
2002	146,190	4.5	3,280,250
2003	149,910	4.5	3,328,270
2004	152,610	4.6	3,351,510
2005	154,070	4.6	3,347,680
2006	155,480	4.6	3,344,490
2007	156,800	4.7	3,321,530

[1] Headcount of pupils.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.
[4] The number of pupils in grammar schools expressed as a percentage of pupils in all secondary schools.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Grammar Schools: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of pupils are entitled to free school meals at each grammar school; [201054]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of grammar school pupils entitled to free school meals; what estimate he has made of the equivalent figure in the local catchment area of each such school; and if he will make a statement. [201204]

Kevin Brennan: A table showing the proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in grammar schools is as follows.

Information about catchment areas of individual grammar schools is not held centrally.

Grammar schools: school meal arrangements: As at January 2007

			Full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15[1]		
Establishment name	URN	LA name	Number of pupils	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
Total grammar schools[2]			112,080	2,490	2.2
The Henrietta Barnett School	101354	Barnet	468	9	1.9
Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet	101358	Barnet	892	19	2.1
St. Michael's Catholic Grammar School	101361	Barnet	479	14	2.9
Bexley Grammar School	101462	Bexley	1,119	43	3.8
Townley Grammar School for Girls	101463	Bexley	1,055	18	1.7
Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School	101466	Bexley	952	11	1.2
Beths Grammar School	101479	Bexley	797	12	1.5
Newstead Wood School for Girls	101671	Bromley	683	8	1.2
St. Olave's and St. Saviour's Grammar School	101676	Bromley	592	[3]—	[3]—
The Latymer School	102055	Enfield	910	23	2.5
The Tiffin Girls' School	102602	Kingston upon Thames	614	9	1.5
Tiffin School	102605	Kingston upon Thames	719	15	2.1
Ilford County High School	102850	Redbridge	597	30	5
Woodford County High School	102852	Redbridge	600	19	3.2
Wilson's School	103007	Sutton	727	7	1
Nonsuch High School for Girls	103008	Sutton	901	8	0.9
Sutton Grammar School for Boys	103011	Sutton	603	16	2.7
Wallington High School for Girl	103012	Sutton	906	16	1.8
Wallington County Grammar School	103014	Sutton	620	12	1.9
Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls	103521	Birmingham	755	12	1.6
Bishop Vesey's Grammar School	103535	Birmingham	611	18	2.9

Grammar schools: school meal arrangements: As at January 2007

			Full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15[1]		
Establishment name	*URN*	*LA name*	*Number of pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Handsworth Grammar School	103549	Birmingham	702	119	17
King Edward VI Handsworth School	103551	Birmingham	687	33	4.8
King Edward VI Five Ways School	103552	Birmingham	770	20	2.6
King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls	103553	Birmingham	623	20	32
King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys	103554	Birmingham	491	19	3.9
King Edward VI Aston School	103555	Birmingham	518	34	6.6
Queen Mary's High School	104261	Walsall	476	13	2.7
Queen Mary's Grammar School	104262	Walsall	481	14	29
Wolverhampton Girls' High School	104402	Wolverhampton	534	5	0.9
The Blue Coat School	104704	Liverpool	608	22	3.6
Wirral Grammar School for Girls	105098	Wirral	778	34	4.4
West Kirby Grammar School	105099	Wirral	887	22	2.5
Calday Grange Grammar School	105112	Wirral	923	26	2.8
Wirral Grammar School for Boys	105113	Wirral	750	31	4.1
St. Anselm's College	105114	Wirral	646	63	9.8
Upton Hall School FCJ	105115	Wirral	688	46	6.7
Altrincham Grammar School for Boys	106361	Trafford	821	10	1.2
Altrincham Grammar School for Girls	106362	Trafford	911	10	1.1
Stretford Grammar School	106368	Trafford	521	57	109
Urmston Grammar School	106369	Trafford	632	7	1.1
Sale Grammar School	106371	Trafford	910	17	1.9
Loreto Grammar School	106378	Trafford	764	13	1.7
The North Halifax Grammar School	107574	Calderdale	774	12	1.6
The Crossley Heath School	107575	Calderdale	773	10	13
Heckmondwike Grammar School	107785	Kirklees	773	23	[2]—
Kendrick Girls' Grammar School	110042	Reading	473	[2]—	[2]—
St. Bernard's Convent School	110084	Slough	636	[2]—	[2]—
Reading School	110097	Reading	608	[2]—	[2]—
Langley Grammar School	110101	Slough	748	17	2.3
Herschel Grammar School	110103	Slough	620	17	2.7
Slough Grammar School	110104	Slough	782	39	5 J
John Hampden Grammar School	110485	Buckinghamshire	692	9	1.3
Burnham Grammar School	110493	Buckinghamshire	625	21	3.4
Aylesbury High School	110494	Buckinghamshire	893	[2]—	[2]—
Dr. Challoner's High School	110495	Buckinghamshire	759	[2]—	[2]—
Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School and Performing Arts College	110496	Buckinghamshire	743	16	22
Chesham High School	110504	Buckinghamshire	892	7	0.8
Aylesbury Grammar School	110511	Buckinghamshire	912	[2]—	[2]—
Royal Latin School	110512	Buckinghamshire	857	9	1.1
Wycombe High School	110513	Buckinghamshire	957	15	1.6
Dr. Challoner's Grammar School	110514	Buckinghamshire	906	[2]—	[2]—
Sir William Borlase's Grammar School	110515	Buckinghamshire	669	[2]—	[2]—
Beaconsfield High School	110528	Buckinghamshire	788	[2]—	[2]—
The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe	110530	Buckinghamshire	965	14	1.5
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	112428	Cumbria	602	5	0.8
Torquay Grammar School for Girls	113523	Torbay	604	23	3.8

Grammar schools: school meal arrangements: As at January 2007

Full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15[1]

Establishment name	*URN*	*LA name*	*Number of pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Churston Ferrers Grammar School	113525	Torbay	623	30	4.8
Devonport High School for Boys	113530	Plymouth	852	27	3.
Devonport High School for Girls	2 113531	Plymouth	607	19	3.1
Plymouth High School for Girls	113532	Plymouth	607	13	2.1
Colyton Grammar School	11 3555	Devon	589	[3]—	[3]—
Torquay Boys' Grammar School	113556	Torbay	745	22	3
Bournemouth School	113900	Bournemouth	747	21	2.8
Parkstone Grammar School	113903	Poole	723	15	2.1
Bournemouth School for Girls	113905	Bournemouth	820	23	2.8
Poole Grammar School	113909	Poole	661	14	2.1
Westcliff High School for Boys	115317	Southend-on-Sea	766	12	16
Chelmsford County High School for Girls	115326	Essex	602	[3]—	[3]—
King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford	115327	Essex	561	[3]—	[3]—
Westcliff High School for Girls	115339	Southend-on-Sea	768	19	2.5
Southend High School for Girls	115344	Southend-on-Sea	765	12	1.6
Colchester Royal Grammar School	115359	Essex	491	[3]—	[3]—
Southend High School for Boys	115362	Southend-on-Sea	741	17	2.3
Colchester County High School for Girls	115370	Essex	540	[3]—	[3]—
Sir Thomas Rich's School	115717	Gloucestershire	568	7	1.2
High School for Girls	115718	Gloucestershire	607	6	1
Ribston Hall High School	115751	Gloucestershire	576	17	3
Marling School	115752	Gloucestershire	628	[3]—	[3]—
Stroud High School	115753	Gloucestershire	639	9	1.4
Pate's Grammar School	115754	Gloucestershire	612	[3]—	[3]—
The Crypt School	115755	Gloucestershire	562	10	1.8
Gravesend Grammar School for Girls	118787	Kent	730	14	1.9
Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School	118789	Kent	715	[3]—	[3]—
Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys	118790	Kent	967	8	0.8
Weald of Kent Grammar School	118791	Kent	775	7	0.9
Invicta Grammar School	118792	Kent	907	18	2
Chatham Grammar School for Boys	118797	Medway	684	44	6.4
Fort Pitt Grammar School	118798	Medway	798	20	2.5
Highsted Grammar School	118802	Kent	615	17	28
Highworth Grammar School for Girls	118804	Kent	845	16	1.9
The Harvey Grammar School	118805	Kent	724	27	3.7
Dover Grammar School for Girls	118806	Kent	580	17	2.9
Clarendon House Grammar School	118809	Kent	546	19	3.5
Maidstone Grammar School	118835	Kent	882	10	1.1
Maidstone Grammar School for Girls	118836	Kent	849	12	14
Borden Grammar School	118837	Kent	559	10	1.8
The Norton Knatchbull School	118838	Kent	728	18	2.5
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School	118839	Medway	811	18	22
Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School	118840	Kent	776	18	2.3
The Judd School	118843	Kent	629	[3]—	[3]—
The Grammar School for Girls Wilmington	118872	Kent	590	12	2
Wilmington Grammar School for Boys	118875	Kent	613	11	1.8
Dartford Grammar School	118878	Kent	796	11	14

Grammar schools: school meal arrangements: As at January 2007

			Full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15[1]		
Establishment name	*URN*	*LA name*	*Number of pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Dartford Grammar School for Girls	118883	Kent	745	11	1.5
Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	118884	Kent	630	15	24
Cranbrook School	118888	Kent	434	[3]—	[3]—
The Skinners' School	118890	Kent	557	[3]—	[3]—
Rainham Mark Grammar School	118892	Medway	877	24	2.7
Oakwood Park Grammar School	118894	Kent	701	12	1 7
Sir Roger Manwood's School	118900	Kent	649	32	49
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	118901	Medway	717	26	3.6
The Folkestone School for Girls	118909	Kent	819	53	6.5
Tonbridge Grammar School	118915	Kent	755	[3]—	[3]—
Barton Court Grammar School	118916	Kent	663	27	4.1
The Rochester Grammar School for Girls	118917	Medway	756	18	24
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	118921	Kent	635	16	25
Dover Grammar School for Boys	118931	Kent	540	31	5.7
Dane Court Grammar School	118932	Kent	855	51	6
Chatham House Grammar School for Boys	118934	Kent	554	26	4.7
Gravesend Grammar School	118936	Kent	728	13	1.8
Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School	119809	Lancashire	756	15	2
Lancaster Royal Grammar School	119810	Lancashire	700	12	17
Lancaster Girls' Grammar School	119811	Lancashire	566	11	1.9
Clitheroe Royal Grammar School	119812	Lancashire	613	10	1.6
Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School	120632	Lincolnshire	809	7	0.9
Kesteven and Steaford High School	120633	Lincolnshire	632	9	1.4
Boston High School	120640	Lincolnshire	575	11	1.9
Spalding High School	120642	Lincolnshire	730	8	11
The Queen Elizabeth's High School Gainsborough	120655	Lincolnshire	890	13	1.5
Bourne Grammar School	120661	Lincolnshire	705	3--	3--
Spalding Grammar School	120665	Lincolnshire	517	11	1.8
The Skegness Grammar School	120696	Lincolnshire	600	13	2.2
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	120697	Lincolnshire	417	19	46
The King's School Grantham	120698	Lincolnshire	694	8	1.2
Carrie's Grammar School	120699	Lincolnshire	543	6	1.1
The King Edward VI Grammar School, Louth	120701	Lincolnshire	603	10	1.7
Caistor Grammar School	120702	Lincolnshire	467	n	3--
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Horncastle	120707	Lincolnshire	602	5	0.8
The Boston Grammar School	120720	Lincolnshire	469	12	2.6
Ripon Grammar School	121694	North Yorkshire	602	9	1.5
Skipton Girls' High School	121712	North Yorkshire	539	[3]—	[3]—
Ermysted's Grammar School	121716	North Yorkshire	522	8	1.5
Newport Girls' High School	123561	Telford and Wrekin	258	[3]—	[3]—
Adams' Grammar School	123593	Telford and Wrekin	540	5	0.9
Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls A Specialist Language College	125730	Warwickshire	378	7	1.9
King Edward VI School	125752	Warwickshire	357	5	14
Lawrence Sheriff School	125753	Warwickshire	513	7	.4
Rugby High School	125769	Warwickshire	472	5	1.1
Alcester Grammar School	125770	Warwickshire	457	[3]—	[3]—

Grammar schools: school meal arrangements: As at January 2007

			Full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15[1]		
Establishment name	*URN*	*LA name*	*Number of pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
South Wilts Grammar School for Girls	126507	Wiltshire	627	[3]—	[3]—
Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School	126508	Wiltshire	598	5	0.8
St. Joseph's College	131301	Stoke-on-Trent	623	15	2.4
St. Ambrose College	131315	Trafford	696	6	0.9

[1] Includes pupils with sole and dual (main) registration.
[2] Totals for all grammar schools have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Less than five pupils, or a rate based on less than five pupils
Source:
School Census

History: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of Key Stage 4 pupils took a GCSE course in history in each year from 1988 to 2007. [201140]

Jim Knight: Figures relating to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 are only readily available for the past three years:

	Percentage of pupils at the end of the Key Stage 4 who attempted GCSE History
2004/05	32
2005/06	32
2006/07	31

Figures relating to 15-year-old pupils (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) going back to 1993/94 are given as follows:

	Percentage of 15-year-old pupils who attempted GCSE History
1993/94	390
1994/95	386
1995/96	358
1996/97	354
1997/98	329
1998/99	32.5
1999/2000	328
2000/01	324
2001/02	32.0
2002/03	313
2003/04	319
2004/05	31.8
2005/06	31 8
2006/07	309

Information for earlier years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Languages: Education

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged *(a)* under 11, *(b)* between 11 and 16 and *(c)* between 17 and 18 years studied a foreign language in each of the last five years. [202230]

Jim Knight: Information on the subjects studied by children at schools is not held centrally by the Department. We can, however, provide figures for children attempting foreign language qualifications at GCSE and A-level. Information on the learning aims of post-16 learners is available from the School Census and the Individual Learner Record from colleges but can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of attempts in GCSEs in modern foreign languages for the past five years.

Pupils attempting GCSEs in modern foreign languages

	Number (Thousand)
2007	301.6
2006	327.0
2005	375.3
2004	437.2
2003	453.9

Note: From 2005, figures are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4; prior to 2005, figures are based on 15-year-old pupils (age at start of school year).

Figures for attempts and achievements in GCE A level qualifications can be found in table 11 of SFR02/2008 "DCSF: GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006/07 (Revised)" which is available via the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000769/index.shtml

Copies of this publication have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Languages: GCE A-Level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of those taking an A-level in a modern language were pupils in state-funded schools in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [201203]

Jim Knight: The percentage of GCE A-level modern foreign language entries that were taken by pupils in maintained schools and colleges in each year since 1997 is given as follows:

	Percentage of GCE A level modern foreign language entries that were taken by pupils in maintained schools and colleges	*Percentage of all GCE A level entries that were taken by pupils in maintained schools and colleges*
1996/97	70.9	83.0
1997/98	70.1	83.3

	Percentage of GCE A level modern foreign language entries that were taken by pupils in maintained schools and colleges	*Percentage of all GCE A level entries that were taken by pupils in maintained schools and colleges*
1998/99	69.0	83.3
1999/2000	67.9	83.7
2000/01	68.0	84.0
2001/02	66.3	83.8
2002/03	64.8	83.8
2003/04	64.8	83.7
2004/05	65.4	84.6
2005/06	66.5	84.6
2006/07	67.7	84.9

The figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).

Languages: Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what minimum level of foreign language qualification is required for a teacher to teach foreign languages to *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level. [201107]

Jim Knight: The Standards for trainee teachers do not set a minimum level of foreign language qualification for a teacher to teach foreign languages to GCSE or A-level. In order to take up employment as a teacher, a trainee should have successfully completed a course of initial teacher training, met all of the standards required of a skilled teacher, including passing the professional skills tests in numeracy, literacy and information and communications technology and been awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

All qualified teachers in England must have a first degree or equivalent qualification but this does not have to be in a specified subject or discipline. The Standards include a requirement that trainees have a secure knowledge and understanding of their subjects to enable them to teach effectively across the age and ability range for which they are trained. Trainees are required to meet all of the Standards, including the subject expectations, before QTS can be awarded.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent in developing the early years foundation stage profile. [201671]

Jim Knight: £1,349,495 has been spent by the Qualifications Curriculum Authority (QCA) on the development and running of the foundation stage profile (FSP) from 2001—April 2008. The FSP will become the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) from September 2008 and the total anticipated expenditure for developing materials in this financial year is £368,237.

Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish the Rose review of the primary curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [201063]

Jim Knight: We have asked Sir Jim Rose to provide an interim report of his review of the primary curriculum by the end of October 2008 and to provide his final advice and recommendations by the end of March 2009.

Pupil Referral Units

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been educated for longer than three years in a pupil referral unit. [200327]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the suitability of facilities at pupil referral units; and if he will make a statement. [201097]

Kevin Brennan: We expect local authorities to provide a good standard of facilities for pupils educated in pupil referral units. We issued guidance on suitable learning environments for pupil referral units in February 2007 in response to Ofsted concerns that many pupil referral units have poor accommodation. We are currently working on implementing commitments set out in the Children's Plan to improve the quality of pupil referral units and other alternative provision.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were educated in pupil referral units in each year since 1996-97. [201135]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the following link

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

to Statistical First Release "Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)". Table 1 gives the information requested. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were being educated in pupil referral units in each local authority area in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [201683]

Jim Knight: The latest available information relates to 2007 and is published in the Statistical First Release 'Schools and Pupils in England' which is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml.

The headcount of pupils in pupil referral units in each local authority is in table 12 and the full time equivalent number of pupils in each local authority is in table 13.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the ratio of all pupils to pupil referral units is in each local authority. [201857]

Jim Knight: The Department does not calculate a ratio for the number of all pupils in a local authority to the number of pupil referral units.

The latest available information on the number of pupil referral units and the number of pupils relates to 2007 and is published in the Statistical First Release "Schools and Pupils in England" which is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

The headcount of pupils by type of school in each local authority is available in table 12 and the full-time equivalent number of pupils is in table 13. The number of pupil referral units in each local authority can be found in table 11.

Pupil Referral Units: Arrests

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in pupil referral units were arrested in each of the last 10 years. [201854]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fixed penalty notices have been issued in each local authority in relation to condoned absenteeism of pupils in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [201040]

Kevin Brennan: The Department began collecting data in September 2004 on the number of penalty notices issued by local authorities to parents in respect of the offence of failing to ensure their children's regular school attendance. Between 1 September 2004 to 31 December 2007, the data on the number of penalty notices issued by each local authority in England are available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/behaviourandattendance/about/data.cfm

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals in *(a)* all secondary schools, *(b)* the top performing 100 secondary schools and *(c)* the bottom performing 100 secondary schools. [201053]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

to Statistical First Release "Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)" where table 3 contains the information requested for all secondary schools. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Libraries of the House. School level performance information showing free school meal eligibility has also been placed in the House Library. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which schools more than 50 per cent. of pupils were entitled to free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available. [201139]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the House Library.

Pupils: Dyslexia

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of children of school age with dyslexia; and what assessment he has made of the effects of their condition on schooling needs; [202172]

(2) what provision has been made for teaching children with dyslexia within his Department's *(a)* Every Child a Reader, *(b)* Every Child a Writer and *(c)* Every Child Counts programmes; [202173]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure there is at least one teacher with specialist training in teaching children with dyslexia on the staff of every school; [202174]

(4) if he will take steps to reduce the number of children with dyslexia who do not succeed in school. [202175]

Kevin Brennan: Our latest figures for pupils in schools with specific learning difficulties (including dyslexia) show there are 75,920 pupils either with a statement of special educational need (SEN) or supported through School Action Plus. We do not collect data on the particular special educational needs of the tenth of all pupils who are supported through School Action.

All local authorities and schools must have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice which provides advice on their statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs. Children with dyslexia should have their needs identified and support put in place, as advised through the code.

To help those working in schools with identifying and supporting children with dyslexia, last October we launched the Inclusion Development Programme, which is offering professional development in key areas of SEN starting with training on communication difficulties, including dyslexia. The Inclusion Development Programme materials were developed in close consultation with dyslexia organisations.

To identify and promote best practice, we are working with dyslexia organisations on the No to Failure Project, through which children in trailblazer schools are screened and specialist teaching provided to those identified at risk of dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties. We are supporting this project with just over £1 million funding over three years.

The recently published report from No to Failure says a significant proportion of participating children not achieving expected levels of attainment are at risk

of dyslexia or other specific learning difficulties. However, the report does not indicate how many children had already been identified with SEN, nor does it evaluate the impact of specialist teaching on children's progression. We are looking forward to seeing the final report later this year, which we understand will contain such an evaluation.

Through No to Failure, we have commissioned Dr. Chris Singleton to summarise published research on the impact of specialist dyslexia teaching. We will consider whether and how we should promote specialist dyslexia teaching as best practice in the light of evidence of its impact.

Our commitment through the Primary and Secondary National Strategies is to ensure Quality First teaching for all. The Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts initiatives are focused on providing additional intervention for the 5 per cent. of children facing the most difficulties with reading and mathematics. They do not provide a specific focus on provision for children with dyslexia. Every Child a Reader is being rolled out to reach 30,000 children a year by 2010/11.

Every Child Counts is currently in a research phase and will be informed by the Williams Review of the teaching of mathematics that is due to be published in June this year. The intention is that Every Child Counts will be aimed at children whose attainment in the early stages of mathematics shows they are not making expected progress for their age.

Every Child a Writer is a new programme announced at the end of last year. The intention—as stated in our Children's Plan—is that this will offer support later in primary school than Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts and reach a greater number of pupils. Further announcements will be made about Every Child a Writer in due course.

Evaluations of the Every Child a Reader pilot—which provides Reading Recovery for children from among those having the most difficulties in learning to read —were published in 2006 and 2007. These are available on www.everychildareader.org.uk. The evaluation of Every Child a Reader in London in 2005/06 showed that 87 per cent. of children who had received Reading Recovery were considered to have made average to exceptional progress in reading comprehension. However, these evaluations did not include looking at the efficacy of Reading Recovery for children with dyslexia.

The SEN Code of Practice says that "effective management, school ethos and the learning environment, curricular, pastoral and discipline arrangements can help prevent some special educational needs arising, and minimise others" (paragraph 5:18). Where whole school arrangements for teaching and learning are not addressing a child's learning difficulties, schools have a statutory duty to do their best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs. It follows that if a child with dyslexia is not benefiting from their participation in any or all of the three initiatives, the school must make additional or different arrangements to address the child's special educational needs.

Pupils: English Language

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools more than 50 per cent. of pupils spoke English as a second language at the latest date for which figures are available. [201240]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools:[1,2,3] Number of schools with more than 50 per cent. of pupils speaking English as an additional language[4,5]—January 2007, England

	Maintained primary schools[1]	Maintained secondary schools[1,2]	All special schools[3]
More than 50 per cent.	1,149	205	45

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] The number of pupils by their first language expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[5] Does not include information which was not sought or refused.
Source:
School Census.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have more than 50 per cent. of pupils with English as an additional language, broken down by local authority index of multiple deprivation decile. [202109]

Jim Knight: The requested information is attached in the following table.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of schools with more than 50 per cent. of pupils with English as a additional language[4, 5]: January 2007 by local authority area and Government Office region in England

		Schools where first language of school population has been classified as other than English			
		Maintained primary schools[1]	All secondary schools[1, 2]	All special schools[3]	Deprivation indicator[6]
841	Darlington	0	0	0	65
840	Durham	0	0	0	48
390	Gateshead	0	0	0	25
805	Hartlepool	0	0	0	13
806	Middlesbrough	2	0	0	9
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	4	0	0	19
392	North Tyneside	0	0	0	60
929	Northumberland	0	0	0	77
807	Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0	38
393	South Tyneside	0	1	0	26
808	Stockton-on-Tees	2	0	0	56

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of schools with more than 50 per cent. of pupils with English as a additional language[4, 5]: January 2007 by local authority area and Government Office region in England

		Schools where first language of school population has been classified as other than English			
		Maintained primary schools[1]	*All secondary schools[1, 2]*	*All special schools[2]*	*Deprivation indicator[6]*
394	Sunderland	0	0	0	21
	North West	127	17	0	—
889	Blackburn with Darwen	17	3	0	30
890	Blackpool	0	0	0	23
350	Bolton	14	1	0	42
351	Bury	4	0	0	69
875	Cheshire	0	0	0	113
909	Cumbria	0	0	0	81
876	Halton	0	0	0	20
340	Knowsley	0	0	0	3
888	Lancashire	23	2	0	79
341	Liverpool	3	0	0	1
352	Manchester	25	5	0	2
353	Oldham	20	3	0	37
354	Rochdale	12	3	0	24
355	Salford	2	0	0	11
343	Sefton	0	0	0	59
342	St. Helens	0	0	0	32
356	Stockport	1	0	0	95
357	Tameside	3	0	0	41
358	Trafford	3	0	0	89
877	Warrington	0	0	0	92
359	Wigan	0	0	0	45
344	Wirral	0	0	0	40
	Yorkshire and the Humber	117	20	6	—
370	Barnsley	0	0	0	27
380	Bradford	46	10	5	28
381	Calderdale	6	1	0	63
371	Doncaster	1	0	0	34
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	0	112
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	0	0	0	8
382	Kirklees	25	5	1	58
383	Leeds	13	2	0	54
812	North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	44
813	North Lincolnshire	1	0	0	83
815	North Yorkshire	1	0	0	125
372	Rotherham	5	0	0	50
373	Sheffield	16	2	0	49
384	Wakefield	3	0	0	46
816	York	0	0	0	118
	East Midlands	52	6	3	—
831	Derby	9	1	1	55
830	Derbyshire	0	1	0	91
856	Leicester	27	4	1	29
855	Leicestershire	4	0	0	136
925	Lincolnshire	0	0	0	94
928	Northamptonshire	2	0	0	107
892	Nottingham	10	0	1	7
891	Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	86
857	Rutland	0	0	0	148
	West Midlands	142	29	6	—
330	Birmingham	79	23	6	14
331	Coventry	9	1	0	51
332	Dudley	3	0	0	76
884	Herefordshire	0	0	0	109
333	Sandwell	15	1	0	15
893	Shropshire	0	0	0	111

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1, 2, 3] : Number of schools with more than 50 per cent. of pupils with English as a additional language[4, 5] : January 2007 by local authority area and Government Office region in England

		Schools where first language of school population has been classified as other than English			
		Maintained primary schools[1]	*All secondary schools[1, 2]*	*All special schools[2]*	*Deprivation indicator[6]*
334	Solihull	0	0	0	103
860	Staffordshire	2	0	0	104
861	Stoke-on-Trent	7	0	0	17
894	Telford and Wrekin	0	0	0	78
335	Walsall	14	3	0	43
937	Warwickshire	1	0	0	120
336	Wolverhampton	10	1	0	31
885	Worcestershire	2	0	0	116
	East of England	28	5	2	—
820	Bedfordshire	4	1	0	131
873	Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	134
881	Essex	0	0	0	121
919	Hertfordshire	5	0	1	138
821	Luton	14	3	1	72
926	Norfolk	0	0	0	97
874	Peterborough	5	1	0	71
882	Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	80
935	Suffolk	0	0	0	114
883	Thurrock	0	0	0	84
	London	633	122	27	—
	Inner City	357	63	19	—
202	Camden	24	3	3	18
201	City of London	1	0	0	123
204	Hackney	33	5	2	5
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	14	4	1	52
309	Haringey	38	7	3	12
206	Islington	14	3	1	6
207	Kensington and Chelsea	17	2	0	82
208	Lambeth	27	3	1	22
209	Lewisham	10	2	1	47
316	Newham	59	12	1	10
210	Southwark	20	5	0	16
211	Tower Hamlets	53	11	3	4
212	Wandsworth	15	1	1	87
213	Westminster	32	5	2	33
	Outer London	276	59	8	—
301	Barking and Dagenham	7	0	0	36
302	Barnet	25	7	0	105
303	Bexley	0	0	0	115
304	Brent	40	10	2	61
305	Bromley	0	0	0	129
306	Croydon	7	1	0	90
307	Ealing	40	7	3	70
308	Enfield	22	4	1	74
203	Greenwich	13	1	0	35
310	Harrow	30	5	1	127
311	Havering	0	0	0	117
312	Hillingdon	11	2	0	99
313	Hounslow	25	6	1	73
314	Kingston upon Thames	5	0	0	135
315	Merton	4	0	0	119
317	Redbridge	22	8	0	98
318	Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	142
319	Sutton	0	0	0	128
320	Waltham Forest	25	8	0	39
	South East	33	5	0	—
867	Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	143
846	Brighton and Hove	0	0	0	62

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of schools with more than 50 per cent. of pupils with English as a additional language[4, 5]: January 2007 by local authority area and Government Office region in England

		Schools where first language of school population has been classified as other than English			
		Maintained primary schools[1]	*All secondary schools[1, 2]*	*All special schools[3]*	*Deprivation indicator[6]*
825	Buckinghamshire	6	1	0	144
845	East Sussex	0	0	0	101
850	Hampshire	0	0	0	140
921	Isle of Wight	0	0	0	83
886	Kent	2	1	0	106
887	Medway	0	0	0	96
826	Milton Keynes	0	0	0	110
931	Oxfordshire	3	0	0	137
851	Portsmouth	0	0	0	64
870	Reading	2	0	0	93
871	Slough	11	3	0	88
852	Southampton	4	0	0	68
936	Surrey	2	0	0	147
869	West Berkshire	0	0	0	146
938	West Sussex	1	0	0	133
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	2	0	0	145
872	Wokingham	0	0	0	149
	South West	9	0	1	—
800	Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	0	132
837	Bournemouth	0	0	0	67
801	Bristol, City of	7	0	1	53
	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	75
878	Devon	0	0	0	100
835	Dorset	0	0	0	130
916	Gloucestershire	1	0	0	126
802	North Somerset	0	0	0	124
879	Plymouth	0	0	0	57
836	Poole	0	0	0	122
933	Somerset	0	0	0	108
803	South Gloucestershire	0	0	0	141
86	Swindon	1	0	0	102
880	Torbay	0	0	0	66
865	Wiltshire	0	0	0	139

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] The number of pupils by their first language expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[5] Does not include information which was not sought or refused.
[6] Where one is the most deprived super output area.
Source:
School Census.

Runaway Children

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to improve the collection of data on child runaways. [200383]

Kevin Brennan: A new indicator on young people who run away from home or care has been included in the National Indicator Set, to be measured from April 2009.

Following The Children's Society report Stepping Up (August 2007) a cross-Departmental working group on young runaways was established, supported by a consultative group made up of experts from the voluntary sector. Immediate activities for the working group include consideration of data collection mechanisms which will best support the new indicator. I am expecting a progress report from the working group on this in June, and full technical consultation on the indicator will take place in autumn 2008.

In addition to developing the new indicator, the working group are also developing an action plan to be published in June which will set out ongoing actions for improvements to services for young runaways at local, regional and national level; reviewing the Missing from Care and Home guidance (2002) and carrying out a review of emergency accommodation provision for young runaways.

School Day

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have lunch breaks of less than 60 minutes; and if he will make a statement. [201209]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

School Leaving: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the annual cost to his Department of compulsory education to the age of 18 years. [201701]

Jim Knight: Our proposals would not introduce compulsory education, but compulsory participation in some form of learning—young people will be able to participate in education, training, or a combination of employment and training.

The estimated costs and benefits of raising the participation age are set out in the Impact Assessment published alongside the Education and Skills Bill on 29 November. Annual costs were estimated at £774 million per cohort of young people, but recurring net benefits were estimated at around £1,626 million.

Costs will continue to be reviewed and revised estimates will be published on the website. The Impact Assessment can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/educationandskills/docs/Impact_Assessment_Education_and_Skills_Bill.pdf and I have placed a copy in the House Library.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether his Department met its target to increase the uptake of school meals by March 2008; and if he will make a statement; [201122]

(2) how much his Department and its predecessors spent on school meals provision in each financial year since 2000-01; and what its planned expenditure is in each financial year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; [201125]

(3) how many local authority school meal services were in deficit in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [201142]

(4) how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools had school meals in (i) 2001, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2006 and (v) 2007; what the equivalent figures are to date in 2008; what target has been set for school meal consumption in (A) 2009, (B) 2010 and (C) 2011; and if he will make a statement. [201208]

Kevin Brennan: Increasing the take-up of school lunches remains a priority for this Department and for the School Food Trust (SFT), as demonstrated by the fact that it is one of the indicators in the new Child Health PSA and is one of the indicators in the National Indicator Set—PSA 12 of the 2007 CSR ('Improve the health and well-being of children and young people'); and an indicator of the local government National Indicator Set (NIS) (NI52—Take-up of school lunches).

The SFT is currently undertaking its third annual survey of school lunch take-up, which will provide information on the current position. The results of the survey will be announced at the Local Authority Caterers' Association annual conference in July 2008.

The Department does not fund school meals' provision. That is the responsibility of local authorities, schools, parents and carers. However, this Government are investing £656 million to support school meals provision between 2005-11. This figure can be broken down as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	61
2006-07	87
2007-08	89.5
2008-09	242
2009-10	89
2010-11	88

We do not have data on how many school meal services were in deficit in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

In response to question 201208, I would refer the hon. Member to the response that I gave on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 400W.

School Meals: Prices

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to prevent increases in the prices of school meals; and if he will make a statement. [201859]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are taking forward a number of steps to help to keep down the price of school meals. We are investing over £650 million between 2005-11 to help raise nutritional standards and keep school lunch prices down. This funding is also being used to help build kitchens in areas with no kitchen facilities; to better support the development of training centres for the school food workforce; and to improve overall take-up.

The School Food Trust is working with manufacturers, caterers and schools to ensure the long term sustainability and efficiency of the country's school food service. They are working with food producers and manufacturers to ensure that the nutrient menus have a minimum effect on the price of school meals as well as working on kitchen efficiencies, including both skilling the workforce and looking at international business models. The Trust has produced guidance focusing on efficient and sustainable school food procurement. This guidance is being distributed to all schools in April 2008.

The Department is working in close alliance with the Trust and other Departments, to identify opportunities and develop initiatives to further improve efficiencies in procurement. These include price benchmark variance reporting, common food standards and terms and conditions to support local and national competitive tendering, as well as the use of shared contracts from other Departments, where they can be shown to meet the needs of schools.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of selection by ability in local authority areas with grammar schools on educational provision; and if he will make a statement. [201048]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has not made a comprehensive assessment of the effects of selection by ability in local authorities with grammar schools. We remain opposed to selection by ability and legislation prevents admission authorities from introducing new selection of this type. Grammar and partially selective schools already selecting in this way at the beginning of the 1997/98 academic year may continue to do so, with decisions on whether individual schools should continue to do so being made at a local level. Parents may object to the Adjudicator about continuing partial selection, and mechanisms are in place to allow parents to vote to remove selection at grammar schools.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to collect information on oversubscription criteria used by schools admissions authorities; and if he will make a statement. [201049]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has asked the schools adjudicator to report to him on compliance with the statutory requirements on admissions, in respect of 2009 admission arrangements and annually thereafter. To inform his 2009 report, to be submitted to the Secretary of State on 1 September 2008, the adjudicator has written to all local authorities asking them to submit to him a full set of admission arrangements for all schools in their area, and their account of the legality, fairness and effectiveness of those arrangements. We will be tabling a government amendment to the Education and Skills Bill which would place a duty on local authorities to submit reports on school admissions to the schools adjudicator in future years which will assist him in producing future reports.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice his Department received on the publication of the school admissions review on 2 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [201084]

Jim Knight: It is essential that Government departments have access to high quality and comprehensive legal advice. This allows for decisions to be taken in a fully informed context. It is vital that Ministers and officials are able to consult lawyers in confidence in order to obtain effective legal advice in a forum which is conducive to a candid exchange of views and consideration and assessment of potential risks without fear of disclosure. Disclosure of legal advice is very likely to prejudice the Government's ability to conduct its business effectively and to defend its legal interests, either by unfairly exposing its legal position to challenge or by reducing the reliance it can place on the advice it has received. For these reasons, disclosure of legal advice would not be in the public interest.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) for what reasons specialist schools are allowed to select up to 10 per cent. of pupils by aptitude; and if he will make a statement; [201091]

(2) what systems of assessment are used by schools which select by aptitude; and if he will make a statement; [201093]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued on selection by aptitude; how this differs from guidance issued on selection by ability; and if he will make a statement. [201179]

Jim Knight: A school may select up to 10 per cent. of its intake by aptitude in prescribed subjects if the school considers it has a specialism, whether or not the school is a designated specialist school. It recognises the diversity of such schools, increases choices for parents and widens access to particular schools. We have published guidance in the school admissions code on aptitude selection which states that a child with aptitude is one who is identified as being able to benefit from teaching in a specific subject, or who demonstrates a particular capacity to succeed in that subject. Such selection is limited to subjects where there are recognised tests for aptitude which do not inadvertently identify high academic ability. Schools may also hold auditions or oral or practical tests to ascertain a child's aptitude. Prescribed subjects are modern foreign languages, performing or visual arts and physical education or sport. Schools may continue to select 10 per cent. by aptitude in design and technology and ICT if they already had such arrangements in place prior to the 2008 academic year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of secondary schools are fully or partially selective by ability; and if he will make a statement; [201092]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 971-72W, on schools: admissions, which the 40 schools referred to are. [201100]

Jim Knight: There are 164 schools designated as grammar schools under section 104 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. We do not collect the data on the proportion of secondary schools which are fully or partially selective by ability. The 40 schools which the Department are aware of which the hon. Member refers to in his question are shown in the following table.

	LEA	*School*
1	Barnet	Mill Hill School
2	Bexley	Erith School
3	Birmingham	Ninestiles School
4	Buckinghamshire	Waddesdon C of E School
5	Croydon	Edenham High School
6		Riddlesdown High School
7		Archbishop Lanfranc
8		Shirley High School
9	Dorset	Budmouth Technology College
10	Dudley	Old Swinford Hospital School

	LEA	School
11	Havering	Coopers' Company and Coborn
12	Hertfordshire	Queens' School
13		St. Clement Danes
14		Parmiter's School
15		Dame Alice Owen
16		Rickmansworth
17		Watford Boys
18		Watford Girls
19	Kent	Homewood School
20		Archbishop's
21		Chaucer
22		Westlands
23	Kingston	Holy Cross
24	Lancashire	Ripley St. Thomas C of E High
25	Lincolnshire	Spilsbury King Edward VI
26	Liverpool	Archbishop Blanch C of E High School
27		King David High School
28		St. Edward's College
29		St. Hilda's C of E High School
30		St. Margarets C of E High School
31	Peterborough	Kings School
32	Southampton	St. Anne's Convent School
33	Southend	St. Bernard's High School
34		St. Thomas More High School for Boys
35	Surrey	Roseberry Girls School
36	Wandsworth	Burntwood
37		Ernest Bevin
38		Chestnut Grove
39		Graveney
40	Warwickshire	Ashlawn School

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will require admissions forums to publish an annual report on the extent to which admissions arrangements in their areas are operating fairly; and if he will make a statement. [201095]

Jim Knight: Legislation provides admission forums with a power to produce annual reports on the effectiveness of admission arrangements in their area, to feed into the School Commissioner's biennial report to Parliament on fair access.

As part of our recent announcements to strengthen the school admissions framework and ensure more compliance with the School Admissions Code and admissions legislation, we published, on 2 April, draft amendments to the Education and Skills Bill for consideration at Commons Report to place a duty on local authorities to report annually to the Schools Adjudicator on the legality, fairness, and effectiveness of admission arrangements in their areas. This duty on local authorities is in line with their role to monitor compliance with the statutory admissions framework and their duty to ensure fair access to educational opportunity. Copies of these draft amendments are available in the House Library.

We also signalled that we will publish detailed proposals in the early summer to further strengthen the admission system, which will include improvements to admission forums.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the role of the schools adjudicator is in monitoring and enforcing the code of admissions; and if he will make a statement. [201096]

Jim Knight: The school's adjudicator considers objections to admission arrangements where the admission authority concerned fails to comply with the mandatory provisions of the school admissions code, or does not follow its guidelines. Local authorities have a duty to refer to the adjudicator the admission arrangements of any school if it appears to them that they do not comply with the law or the mandatory requirements of the code. The Secretary of State made a statement to Parliament on 2 April in which he outlined his proposals to extend the role of the schools adjudicator to ensure that all admission arrangements are legal, fair and effective.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which local authorities use a system of authority-wide fair banding for school admissions; [201108]

(2) which 10 local authorities select the highest proportion of their secondary school children by ability; and what proportion of secondary school pupils were educated in selective schools in each of those authorities in the last year for which figures are available. [201058]

Jim Knight: We do not collect the information asked; however Sheffield Hallam University carried out research into secondary school admissions for 2006 (published in January 2008) which showed only a small minority of schools use banding. Three local authorities Greenwich, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets had authority-wide banding. Sheffield Hallam found that the following 10 authorities select the highest proportion of their secondary school children by ability.

	Total places	Selective places	Non-selective places	Percentage selective places	Percentage non-selective places
Trafford	3,066	1,200	1,866	39.14	60.86
Southend-on-Sea	2,178	750	1,428	34.44	65.56
Buckinghamshire	5,794	1,980	3,814	34.17	65.83
Slough	1,557	530	1,027	34.04	65.96
Kent	16,781	4,830	11,951	28.78	71.22
Bexley	3,451	991	2,460	28.72	71.28
Sutton	2,641	737	1,904	27.91	72.09
Medway	3,714	954	2,760	25.69	74.31
Lincolnshire	8,665	2,065	6,600	23.83	76.17
Poole	1,705	360	1,345	21.11	78.89

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what research he has commissioned on schools admission arrangements; and if he will make a statement; [201109]

(2) what research his Department has commissioned on the effects of selection by aptitude; what assessment he has made of the merits of such selection; and if he will make a statement; [201110]

(3) what research his Department has commissioned on the merits of selection by aptitude in the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [201178]

(4) what research his Department has commissioned on selection procedures in schools using partial selection in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [201180]

Jim Knight: The Department commissioned Sheffield Hallam university, in conjunction with the National Centre for Social Research, to undertake a comprehensive study of school admission arrangements in England. This study mapped the arrangements for all admission authorities of secondary schools and examined the experiences of parents and careers who applied for places in secondary schools for September 2006.

This report examines the major issues concerning school admissions, including regulation, coordination, oversubscription criteria (including banding, selection by attainment and selection by aptitude) and appeals. The full report was published in January 2008 and is available from the DCSF Research and Statistics Gateway:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools using faith-based criteria for admissions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [201186]

(2) if he will make it his policy to collect information on the number of maintained schools which select by faith; and if he will make a statement. [201304]

Jim Knight: The latest figures published by the Department show that in January 2007 there were 6,255 maintained primary schools and 587 maintained secondary schools designated by the Secretary of State as having a religious character. These schools are permitted to use faith-based oversubscription criteria in order to give higher priority to children who are members of, or practice, their faith. The Department does not collect information on how many of these schools do or do not use faith-based oversubscription criteria.

As signalled in our statement to the House on 2 April, we will be tabling an amendment to the Education and Skills Bill which would place a duty on local authorities to produce a report on school admissions, to be submitted annually to the Schools Adjudicator.

We intend for these reports to include information about the admission arrangements for schools in their area and this could include, in the case of schools designated as having a religious character, whether they give higher priority to children who are members of, or practice, their faith.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the level of intra-year pupil turnover at the 50 schools in England with the highest levels of intra-year pupil turnover in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201189]

Jim Knight: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of fully subscribed schools which have not been approved for expansion on the grounds of *(a)* neighbouring schools having surplus places and *(b)* unavailability of local authority capital funding. [201591]

Jim Knight: School place planning is a local matter and it is for the local authority and individual schools to decide whether to consult on, and then publish, statutory proposals to expand a school. Following publication of any statutory proposals, the final decision would be taken by the local authority or schools adjudicator, or, prior to 25 May 2007, the local School Organisation Committee or schools adjudicator.

Since January 2003 statutory proposals to expand nine schools have been rejected. The Department does not maintain records of whether the schools were oversubscribed or the reasons for rejection and we have made no estimate of rejections due to neighbouring schools having surplus places or the unavailability of local authority capital funding. The Department has no

information on other cases where a school, or local authority, have decided not to proceed to publish expansion proposals.

Each local authority is allocated significant amounts of capital through a range of different programmes that can be joined-up and used flexibly according to local priorities. Additional resources are also available through the new Primary Capital Programme and, through application, for the expansion of successful and popular schools from the Standards and Diversity Targeted Capital Fund. The Government have made it clear that the wishes of parents should be taken into account in planning school place provision and that they want to encourage successful and popular schools to expand to meet parental demand.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parental representations made to local authorities have been referred to his Department since the publication of Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School or Adding a Sixth Form: A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies in March 2008; and how many have been referred in the last 12 months. [201592]

Jim Knight: No parental representations have been received since March 2008 and one has been received in the past 12 months.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have more than 1,500 pupils, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile. [201687]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table:

All state funded secondary schools [1,2], Number and percentage of schools with more than 1,500 pupils by level of deprivation of school [3]—Number of schools by Band. England, as at January 2007

	Number of secondary schools with more than 1,500 pupils	*Percentage of secondary schools with more than 1,500 pupils*
Level of deprivation of school based on Index of Multiple Deprivation [2]		
0-10 most deprived	14	5.3
10-20	13	4.1
20-30	21	6.5
30-40	31	8.5
40-50	29	7.6
50-60	24	6.9
60-70	33	8.9
70-80	35	10.6
80-90	39	10.8
90-100 least deprived	49	14.4
All schools [3,4]	288	8.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes local authority maintained secondary schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] 2004 Indices of Multiple Deprivation at Super Output Area based on the location of the school.
[4] Based on schools open at as January 2006.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Catering

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local authority area had (i) no kitchen facilities for producing school meals and (ii) no daily access to hot school meals for pupils in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201207]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given previously for question number 187150.

Schools: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary class sizes in the 20 (i) highest and (ii) lowest deprivation local authority areas; and if he will make a statement. [201192]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the House Library.

Schools: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department provides to schools on the proportion of teaching time which should be allocated to *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics at Key Stage (i) 1, (ii) 2 and (iii) 3; and if he will make a statement; [200990]

(2) what funding he plans to allocate to schools for new curriculum requirements on *(a)* cookery and *(b)* culture; and if he will make a statement; [201059]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1096W, on food: secondary education, for what reasons cookery lessons will be compulsory in all maintained schools other than academies; and if he will make a statement; [201321]

(4) what guidance his Department has issued to schools on the amount of weekday education in cultural subjects to be delivered; and if he will make a statement. [201322]

Jim Knight: The statutory national curriculum programmes of study set out what is to be taught in each subject, not how it is to be taught, nor for how many hours each week. The Department does not prescribe the amount of time that should be allocated to the teaching of English, mathematics or culture. However, the Rose Review of the teaching of reading recommended that 15-20 minutes a day should be spent on the teaching of phonics in order to secure children's early reading, particular during key stage 1.

In February 2008 the Government announced a £25 million Find Your Talent programme of 10 pilots that will trial different ways of offering young people a range of cultural experiences for at least five hours a week, both in and out of school. The pilots will test a variety of approaches to a cultural offer over the next three years and will build on the considerable amount of cultural activity already taking place, and provided by a range of partners in addition to schools.

In compulsory food technology lessons pupils will be taught a broad range of practical skills and techniques and how to use them to develop, plan and cook a range of dishes. They will also learn about health and safety, the characteristics of a broad range of ingredients and a balanced diet. This will equip them with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to eat a healthy, balanced diet. This new curriculum for food technology will be introduced from September 2008 and will become compulsory from September 2011. From September 2011 schools will share £2.5 million a year towards the cost of ingredients for pupils on free school meals.

Schools: Facilities

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* head teachers and *(c)* school governors on hygiene and the cleaning and maintenance of school toilet facilities; [201216]

(2) if he will assess the availability of fresh drinking water in schools for *(a)* pupils and *(b)* staff; and if he will make a statement. [201215]

Jim Knight: Although we have not issued discrete advice on hygiene and the maintenance and cleaning of school toilets, the Department's guidance on standard specifications for secondary schools, "Toilets in Schools" at

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12420

makes clear the importance of well-designed and well-maintained facilities, so that pupils can and will readily make use of them.

We have no plans to assess the availability of drinking water in schools. The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 require schools to have a wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes including a supply of drinking water. The responsibility for ensuring maintained schools' compliance with the regulations rests with local authorities.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what resources from standards funds have been allocated by his Department in the last 12 months, broken down by source fund. [201127]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the Standards Fund allocations made to local authorities for 2007-08.

Standards fund allocations to local authorities 2007-08

Grant	*£ million*
School Development Grant	1,894.29
School Standards Grant	1,174.56
School Standards Grant (Personalisation)	355.85
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	178.63
Targeted School Meals Grant	49.00
Devolved School Meals Grant	29.19
Extended Schools	64.57
Targeted Support for Primary National Strategy	146.50
Targeted Support for Secondary National Strategy	110.68
Primary Strategy: Communication, Language and Literacy	2.58
Aimhigher	26.28
Targeted Improvement Grant	20.69
Fresh Start and New Partnerships: Recurrent	2.43
School Improvement Partners	13.06
Music Services	59.56
Music at Key Stage 2	23.00
Education Health Partnerships	11.64
Playing for Success	10.82
London Challenge/City Challenge	19.48
14-19 Engagement Programme	10.98
Choice Advisers	5.27
School Workforce Data Collection Pilots	1.76
Making Good Progress Pilots	5.31
School Intervention Grant	15.00
Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding	29.70
Walking to School Initiatives	2.58
General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School	4.00
Extended Rights for Free Travel	3.20
Regional School Travel Advisers	0.22
Computers for Pupils: Recurrent	9.97
Computers for Pupils: Capital	49.29
National Digital Infrastructure for Schools: Capital	195.93
E-Learning Credits	49.92
Devolved Formula Capital	812.38
School Travel Plans: Capital	17.86
Capital Modernisation: Primary	88.92
Capital Modernisation: Secondary	89.37
Targeted Capital Fund	615.81
Building Schools for the Future: Capital	382.11
Miscellaneous Capital Grants	245.94
Basic Needs Safety Valve: Capital	9.60
Successful and Popular Schools: Capital	12.14
Specialist Schools Capital	20.96
Fresh Start and New Partnerships: Capital	13.10
City Learning Centre: Capital	15.77
England total	6,899.91

Schools: Sales

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many former school sites have been sold since 1997. [201700]

Jim Knight: We do not hold this information. Although local authorities and maintained schools in England need consent before they can dispose of a school playing field or any part of a school playing field, they do not require approval to sell buildings, or the marginal non-playing field land surrounding those buildings. Such decisions are made locally.

Schools: Sports

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools played inter-school sport in the latest period for which figures are available. [201867]

Kevin Brennan: The 2006/07 PE and School Sport Survey found that 94.1 per cent. of primary schools and 99.8 per cent. of secondary schools provided inter-school competition for their pupils.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which publicly funded agencies and departmental bodies are responsible for raising standards in schools; and if he will make a statement. [201437]

Jim Knight: Within their specific areas of responsibility, all the Department's agencies and other bodies which work with schools work to raise standards and narrow attainment gaps.

The main departmental bodies helping schools to raise standards are:

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)

National Strategies

National College for School Leadership (NCSL)

Ofsted

Partnerships for schools (PfS)

Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA).

Schools: Water

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* water and *(b)* electricity was used by schools in (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006 and (vii) 2007. [200310]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have information on the volumes of water and electricity supplied to all schools in England. However, we have gathered benchmarking information on electricity and water use for the years 2001-2006 for a sample of schools. This has been analysed to determine average water use per pupil and electricity use per square metre of floor area as summarised in the following tables.

Average annual water consumption (cu.m/pupil)

	Nursery	Primary		Secondary	
		With pool	Without pool	With pool	Without pool
2000-01[1]	3.41	4.31	3.80	5.08	3.86
2001-02[1]	4.28	4.35	4.03	5.06	3.96
2002-03[1]	4.21	4.48	4.02	5.08	3.82
2003-04[2]	3.50	5.16	3.99	5.08	3.70
2004-05[2]	3.52	4.95	4.08	4.89	3.75
2005-06[2]	3.71	4.91	4.11	5.39	3.75

Average annual electricity consumption (kWh/m2)

	Nursery	Primary		Secondary	
		With pool	Without pool	With pool	Without pool
2000-01[1]	38	34		36	
2001-02[1]	43	36		37	
2002-03[1]	43	37		39	
2003-04[2]	42	39	37	47	40
2004-05[2]	48	42	40	48	41
2005-06[2]	53	46	43	56	49

[1]Based on samples of approximately 16,000 schools
[2]Based on samples of approximately 4,000 schools

Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school pupils were studying for *(a)* biology, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* physics GCSEs at the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile. [201688]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the attainment gap at Key Stage 4 between children in *(a)* the 10 per cent. most deprived and *(b)* the 10 per cent least deprived local authorities; what this gap was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [201089]

Jim Knight: The information can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many eligible pupils did not obtain level 4 in a combination of reading, writing and mathematics tests in Key Stage 2 tests in 2007, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile. [201241]

Jim Knight: Figures broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Some related figures can be found at the following:

National figures for pupils achieving level 4 or above in a combination of reading, writing and mathematics can be found in 'DCSF: National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2007 (Provisional)' found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000737/index.shtml (Table 5)

National and Government Office Region level figures of pupils achieving level 4 or above in English, Mathematics and Science broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile can be found in 'DCSF: National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07' found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml (Table 1).

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to publish the research conducted by KPMG on the funding gap between school sixth forms and further education colleges, as referred to on page 37 of the Learning and Skills Council Statement of Priorities, 2008-09 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [201205]

Jim Knight: As set out in the Learning and Skills Council's Statement of Priorities (November 2007), a common 16-18 funding approach for schools, colleges

and providers will be introduced from 2008/09. This will support better partnership and collaboration between institutions and is key to the successful delivery of the 14-19 reforms.

In line with Cabinet Office guidance there are no plans to publish the KPMG report in the period leading up to the local elections. However, we aim to publish it thereafter.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils had registered to study for diplomas from September 2008 at the latest date for which figures are available. [201242]

Jim Knight: Students register for diplomas, as they do other qualifications, over a period of time between March and September. Schools and colleges will continue to revise numbers of students choosing particular courses between now and September.

Specialised Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools have specialist status, broken down by specialism. [201699]

Jim Knight: There are 2,880 maintained schools which have specialist school status. The breakdown of those schools by specialism is shown in the following table:

Maintained Specialist Schools, April 2008

	Number
Arts colleges	476
Business and enterprise	249
Engineering colleges	57
Humanities colleges	116
Language colleges	220
Maths and computing	272
Music colleges	26
Science colleges	316
Sports colleges	382
Technology colleges	564
Combined specialism	125
SEN specialism	77
Total maintained specialist schools	2,880

Specialist Schools and Academic Trust: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what financial contribution his Department and its predecessors made *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly to the Specialist Schools and Academic Trust in each financial year since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [201124]

Jim Knight: The DCSF funds SSAT through a range of grants and contracts to support the Specialist Schools and Academies Programmes and a range of other activities designed to raise pupil achievement. The total financial contribution made to SSAT over the last six years for which we have final information is: £2.395 million in 2001-02; £4.371 million in 2002-03; £11.326 million in 2003-04; £17.796 million in 2004-05; £24,350 million in 2005-06; and £35.152 million in 2006-07. Once accounts are finalised, we expect the contribution for 2007-08 will be in the region of £44 million. Within each grant and contract funded by the Department, a proportion of funding will cover the associated direct and indirect delivery costs, as appropriate for each programme.

Supplementary Schools: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department provided for supplementary schools in each of the last five years; what funding it plans to provide in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [200353]

Jim Knight: The Department does not provide direct funding to supplementary schools. However, last year, in partnership with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Department contributed £596,000 towards funding the establishment of a National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education. This funding was initially planned to end on 31 March this year but as announced to the House on 26 February the Department has extended it to ensure that the centre's valuable work continues. In 2008-09 the Department will make available a grant of £350,000 and up to a similar amount in 2009-10 with arrangements to give the centre an incentive to become self-sufficient as early as possible. One key aim of the centre is to promote links between supplementary schools, local authorities and mainstream schools.

Supply Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of spending on supply teachers in maintained schools in each year from 1997-98. [201129]

Jim Knight: The value of spend on supply teachers in maintained schools in each year from 1997-98 was as follows:

£

	Supply teaching staff	*Agency supply teaching staff*	*Total*
2002/03	484,510,938	356,530,225	841,041,163
2003/04	462,741,309	372,491,669	835,232,978
2004/05	438,806,050	384,905,468	823,711,518
2005/06	454,848,557	434,073,749	888,922,306
2006/07	117,646,342	268,443,722	386,090,064

Prior to 2002/03 expenditure on supply teachers was not separately identifiable and so this data is not available. Data for the period 2007/08 has yet to be fully collated and so too is omitted from the aforementioned table.

The Department's Educational Procurement Centre (EPC) is currently undertaking a Temporary Workers in Education project. This aims to provide schools (initially in London) with an accessible, quality driven

electronic one stop shop for their temporary staff requirements. Two key benefits of this project will be safeguarding and efficiencies. All participating agencies will hold the DCSF Recruitment Employment Confederation (REC) Quality Mark, thereby meeting the requirements of the Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education guidance. All London boroughs will be able to benefit from a safe and value adding quality central service, reducing their own resourcing requirement in relation to temporary staff and allow them to redirect to other needs.

Teachers: Career Structure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to enhance continuing professional development opportunities for teachers; and if he will make a statement. [201045]

Jim Knight: Ongoing engagement in effective Continuing Professional Development (CPD) that makes a positive difference to teachers' effectiveness is essential if we are to achieve our aim of a world class work force.

Working with Social Partners and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) we will introduce a new qualification, the Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL), which will offer enhanced professional development for teachers. Building on the current performance management arrangements, we will continue to explore with Social Partners how we might frame an entitlement to CPD. Alongside this we will continue to invest in the National Strategies and other subject-specific priorities such as science and mathematics.

Teachers: Foreigners

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of teachers in each local authority area in London are not British nationals; and what the equivalent figures are for each year since 1997. [201197]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Labour Turnover

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of teachers left the profession within *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years and *(c)* five years of joining in the latest period for which figures are available; what information his Department holds on the levels of qualifications of those teachers; and if he will make a statement. [201106]

Jim Knight: The readily available information relates to the percentage of newly qualified teachers who remained in local authority maintained service a number of years after qualification. This information is provided in the following table:

Percentage of full and part-time[1] secondary teachers that qualified in a particular year and were still in service in the maintained sector in England a number of years later

			Percentage in full or part-time service the following number of years later							
Year qualified[2]	*Newly qualified entrants*	*First year in service*[3]	*1 year*	*2 years*	*3 years*	*4 years*	*5 years*	*6 years*	*7 years*	*8 years*
1997	9,300	1997-98	89	82	77	73	70	68	67	65
1998	8,700	1998-99	89	81	76	73	71	69	67	—
1999	8,800	1999-2000	89	82	77	74	72	70	—	—
2000	8,900	2000-01	90	83	78	76	72	—	—	—
2001	9,700	2001-02	91	83	79	75	—	—	—	—
2002	11,600	2002-03	91	84	80	—	—	—	—	—
2003	13,000	2003-04	91	85	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	13,300	2004-05	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Teachers in part-time service are under-recorded on the DTR by between 10 and 20 per cent. and therefore these figures may be slightly underestimated.
[2] Calendar year in which the teachers qualified.
[3] Financial year during which the teachers entered service.
Notes:
1. Figures relating to 2004-05 and 2005-06 are provisional; entrant numbers rounded to nearest 100. 2. The length of service may not have been continuous; for example, not all of those shown as teaching eight years after entering service in 1997-98 may have taught continuously for eight years, some may have taken periods of time outside of the maintained sector.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records (DTR).

Information on the levels of qualifications of these teachers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time teachers entering the profession left the profession within *(a)* three and *(b)* five years in the latest period for which figures are available in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber; and if he will make a statement. [201961]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available by local authority area.

The readily available information relates to the percentage of newly qualified teacher who remained in local authority maintained service in England a number of years after qualification. This information is provided in the following table.

Percentage of full and part-time[1] secondary teachers that qualified in a particular year and were still in service in the maintained sector in England a number of years later

			Percentage in full or part-time service the following number of years later							
Year qualified[2]	*Newly qualified entrants*	*First year in service*[3]	*1 yr*	*2 yrs*	*3 yrs*	*4 yrs*	*5 yrs*	*6 yrs*	*7 yrs*	*8 yrs*
1997	9,300	1997-98	89	82	77	73	70	68	67	65
1998	8,700	1998-99	89	81	76	73	71	69	67	
1999	8,800	1999-2000	89	82	77	74	72	70		
2000	8,900	2000-01	90	83	78	76	72			
2001	9,700	2001-02	91	83	79	75				
2002	11,600	2002-03	91	84	80					
2003	13,000	2003-04	91	85						
2004	13,300	2004-05	91							

[1] Teachers in part-time service are under-recorded on the DTR by between 10 and 20% and therefore these figures may be slightly underestimated.
[2] Calendar year in which the teachers qualified.
[3] Financial year during which the teachers entered service.
Notes:
1. The length of service may not have been continuous; for example, not all of those shown as teaching eight years after entering service in 1997-98 may have taught continuously for eight years, some may have taken periods of time outside of the maintained sector.
2. Figures relating to 2004-05 and 2005-06 are provisional; entrant numbers rounded to nearest 100.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records (DTR)

Teachers: Performance Appraisal

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average time taken to complete the steps necessary to dismiss a persistently underperforming teacher in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201046]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of new teachers had *(a)* a first class, *(b)* an upper second class, *(c)* a lower second class, *(d)* a third class and *(e)* no degree in each year from 1996 to 2008; and if he will make a statement; [201042]

(2) what proportion of maintained secondary schools have no teacher on staff with a degree level qualification in physics; and if he will make a statement; [201131]

(3) what estimate he has made of teacher turnover in maintained schools in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by local authority area; [201184]

(4) what estimates he has made of teacher turnover rates in each local authority in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [201187]

(5) how many schools had a teacher turnover rate above 25 per cent. in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201188]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 924W with respect to question 201131.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of teachers in each local authority area was classed as unqualified in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201191]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the proportion of full-time equivalent unqualified teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in England by each local authority in January 2007. Unqualified teachers include 11,000 instructors and overseas trained teachers and 5,700 on employment based training routes to qualified teacher status (including teachers on the Graduate Teacher Programme, Registered Teacher Programme, Overseas Trained Teacher Programme and Teach First).

The proportion of full-time equivalent unqualified teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in England by each local authority in January 2007

	Percentage
Gateshead	0.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	2.1
North Tyneside	0.8
South Tyneside	1.3
Sunderland	2.4
Hartlepool	3.2
Middlesbrough	1.4
Redcar and Cleveland	3.5
Stockton on Tees	3.1
Darlington	2.0
Durham	1.7
Northumberland	1.2
North East	1.9
Cumbria	1.1
Cheshire	1.8
Halton	1.1
Warrington	1.4
Bolton	2.0
Bury	0.9
Manchester	3.9

The proportion of full-time equivalent unqualified teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in England by each local authority in January 2007

	Percentage
Oldham	3.5
Rochdale	1.7
Salford	3.0
Stockport	0.9
Tameside	1.7
Trafford	1.9
Wigan	1.6
Lancashire	1.5
Blackburn with Darwen	0.5
Blackpool	1.5
Knowsley	1.8
Liverpool	1.4
St. Helens	0.7
Sefton	1.7
Wirral	1.2
North West	1.7
Kingston-Upon-Hull, City of	7.3
East Riding of Yorkshire	2.5
North East Lincolnshire	5.9
North Lincolnshire	4.0
North Yorkshire	3.0
York	2.2
Barnsley	1.2
Doncaster	3.0
Rotherham	2.9
Sheffield	3.3
Bradford	0.9
Calderdale	0.9
Kirklees	1.9
Leeds	2.5
Wakefield	2.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	2.7
Derby	2.7
Leicestershire	4.0
Leicester	5.2
Rutland	1.9
Lincolnshire	5.1
Northamptonshire	4.5
Nottinghamshire	0.9
Nottingham	2.9
East Midlands	3.2
Herefordshire	2.5
Worcestershire	1.8
Shropshire	1.3
Telford and Wrekin	2.2
Staffordshire	2.1
Stoke-on-Trent	3.6
Warwickshire	3.6
Birmingham	1.0
Coventry	3.3
Dudley	2.9
Sandwell	0.7
Solihull	4.0
Walsall	3.9
Wolverhampton	3.9
West Midlands	2.3
Cambridgeshire	5.5

The proportion of full-time equivalent unqualified teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in England by each local authority in January 2007

	Percentage
Peterborough	4.0
Norfolk	4.0
Suffolk	2.3
Bedfordshire	5.8
Luton	9.5
Essex	3.9
Southend-on-Sea	12.7
Thurrock	10.3
Hertfordshire	5.2
East of England	5.0
City of London	15.3
Camden	9.4
Greenwich	8.4
Hackney	15.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	10.4
Islington	8.8
Kensington and Chelsea	12.7
Lambeth	9.0
Lewisham	5.4
Southwark	12.0
Tower Hamlets	10.0
Wandsworth	8.2
Westminster	12.3
Barking and Dagenham	9.2
Barnet	8.5
Bexley	4.6
Brent	9.7
Bromley	5.3
Croydon	6.0
Ealing	8.5
Enfield	8.0
Haringey	6.5
Harrow	9.4
Havering	6.9
Hillingdon	9.1
Hounslow	6.5
Kingston upon Thames	4.5
Merton	6.2
Newham	5.5
Redbridge	9.1
Richmond upon Thames	4.8
Sutton	5.0
Waltham Forest	9.1
London	8.1
Bracknell Forest	7.0
Windsor and Maidenhead	9.1
West Berkshire	2.7
Reading	3.2
Slough	10.1
Wokingham	4.2
Buckinghamshire	5.8
Milton Keynes	3.7
East Sussex	3.3
Brighton and Hove	2.6
Hampshire	3.6
Portsmouth	4.5
Southampton	3.8
Isle of Wight	6.1

The proportion of full-time equivalent unqualified teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in England by each local authority in January 2007

	Percentage
Kent	8.9
Medway	5.9
Oxfordshire	5.2
Surrey	3.8
West Sussex	1.8
South East	5.1
Isles of Scilly	—
Bath and North East Somerset	1.1
City of Bristol	2.7
North Somerset	0.2
South Gloucestershire	0.7
Cornwall	2.0
Devon	1.8
Plymouth	1.5
Torbay	2.3
Dorset	2.0
Poole	1.8
Bournemouth	1.9
Gloucestershire	1.6
Somerset	2.1
Wiltshire	1.6
Swindon	3.3
South West	1.8
England	3.8

Source:
Annual Survey of Teachers in Services and Teacher Vacancies (618g)

Teachers: Recruitment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many places there were on the Teach First programme in each year since its establishment; how many places there will be on the *(a)* Teach First and *(b)* Teach Next programme in each year from 2008 to 2012; and if he will make a statement. [201105]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the targets for Teach First places for the academic years 2003/04 to 2009/10. No allocations have been made beyond 2009/10.

Targets for Teach First places

	Number
2003/04	200
2004/05	200
2005/06	200
2006/07	280
2007/08	350
2008/09	365
2009/10	435

Note: 2003/04 was the first year of the Teach First programme.
Source: Teach First.

At present there is no Teach Next programme.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of those entering teacher training schemes had no qualifications at *(a)* degree and *(b)* advanced level in each year since 1997. [201185]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the proportion of entrants to Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses between 1998/99 and 2005/06 who had no qualifications at *(a)* degree and *(b)* advanced level. New entrants to undergraduate ITT programmes will gain their degree on successful completion of their programme, and by definition will not therefore hold a degree or equivalent on entry. Virtually all (99.99 per cent.) of the trainees represented by column "Proportion of entrants with no degree or degree equivalent" of the table were on undergraduate programmes.

Percentage

Year of entry	Route	Proportion of entrants with no degree or degree equivalent	Proportion of entrants with no degree or degree equivalent or A/AS levels
1998/99	Mainstream	33	12
1999/2000	Mainstream	31	11
2000/01	Mainstream	29	10
2001/02	Mainstream	27	9
	EBITT	5	5
	Total	24	9
2002/03	Mainstream	25	10
	EBITT	5	5
	Total	23	9
2003/04	Mainstream	23	8
	EBITT	4	4
	Total	21	8
2004/05	Mainstream	24	8
	EBITT	4	4

Year of entry	Route	Proportion of entrants with no degree or degree equivalent	Percentage Proportion of entrants with no degree or degree equivalent or A/AS levels
	Total	20	7
2005/06	Mainstream	25	7
	EBITT	3	3
	Total	21	7

Notes:
1. Data prior to 1998/99 is not available.
2. Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutes, SCITT and Open University, but excludes Employment Based ITT (EBITT).
3. EBITT includes trainees through the Graduate Teacher Programme, the Registered Teacher Programme, the Overseas Trained Teachers Programme and Teach First.
4. Prior to 2001/02 no data was collected about the qualifications of EBITT trainees.
5. Those with a degree or degree equivalent include trainees with non-UK degrees.
6. Those without a degree or degree equivalent or A/AS levels include trainees with GNVQs, Access and other qualification or undefined.

Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles.

National Strategies Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost of the National Strategies programme managed by Capita for his Department; and if he will make a statement. [201485]

Jim Knight: In 2007-08 approximately £469 million has been allocated for the delivery of and engagement with the National Strategies programmes. This includes funding for school improvement, as well as the development and delivery of professional development materials for teachers. It also includes support for central coordination at local authority level and targeted funding for schools.

Teaching Methods: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend on each scheme for personalised learning in schools in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [200996]

Jim Knight: The Comprehensive Spending Review for the period 2008-11 allocated the following additional funding for personalised learning, including funding for Special Educational Needs, through the Dedicated Schools Grant:

	£ million
2008-09	330
2009-10	535
2010-11	912

This money is included in schools' base budgets and is earmarked for personalised learning and special educational needs, but is not allocated to specific initiatives. The funding reflects the Government's commitment to tailor the support available for every child that allows them to reach their full potential, irrespective of their background or circumstances.

In addition to the allocations above, the CSR also allocated money for the following specific areas of work which relate to personalised learning:

£150 million to support Assessment for Learning, a key element of personalising learning (£50 million in each of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11);

£453 million to enable 300,000 pupils a year to receive individual tuition in English, and a further 300,000 pupils in mathematics, by 2010-11 (£138 million in 2009-10; £315 million in 2010-11); and

£167 million to fund the expansion of the Every Child a Reader, Every Child Counts and Every Child a Writer one-to-one intervention programmes for children in primary school (£19 million in 2008-09, £56 million in 2009-10, £92 million in 2010-11).

The funding settlement for 2011-12 has not yet been announced.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 29 April 2008

HEALTH

Allergies: Consultants

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many consultant allergists there are in England per head of population; [202669]

(2) how many consultants specialising in allergies there are in England. [202670]

Ann Keen: The majority of patients with an allergy are treated in primary care. There are 18 consultant allergists in England. This equates to 0.04 per 100,000 population. There are also 444 consultant dermatologists, 58 consultant immunologists and 2,156 consultant paediatricians who treat patients with allergies.

Autism

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with autistic spectrum disorder have been detained under mental health legislation since the relevant provisions came into force. [200794]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Autism: Diagnosis

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the frequency with which autistic spectrum disorder was misdiagnosed as a mental health condition, in the latest period for which figures are available; [200267]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of occasions on which a misdiagnosis of an autistic spectrum disorder led to an inappropriate prescription of psychoactive drugs in each of the last five years. [200268]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

The content of curricula of courses for health and social care professionals is a matter for a variety of independent professional and educational bodies such as the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Children: Health Services

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role health visitors will play in delivering the Child Health Promotion Programme; and what estimate he has made of the number of health visitors required to deliver the target outcomes of the programme. [200518]

Ann Keen: Health visitors are central to delivering the Child Health Promotion Programme (CHPP). With expertise in children, families and public health, together with their background as nurses they are ideally placed to lead the delivery of CHPP in the community. The recent review into the future role of the health visitor, 'Facing the Future', recommended two roles for health visitors. One of the roles is to lead and deliver the CHPP for a defined population working across general practice and children's centres. The recently updated CHPP promotes the important role of the health visitor to commissioners and services providers.

It is the responsibility of local organisations to commission and develop services to respond to local needs, including the recruitment of health visitors. The operating framework for 2008-09 highlights the importance of children's services and the need for local organisations to commission and provide the necessary services and work force.

Chlamydia: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to have developed a national template for service specification for chlamydia screening through the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework; and what steps he will take to encourage primary care trusts to commission chlamydia screening as an advanced service. [201335]

Dawn Primarolo: The Sexual Health National Support Team (SH-NST) will be working closely with the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) to increase screening volumes. The SH-NST will also be working jointly with strategic health authorities to identify those areas facing the greatest challenge in commissioning services, to help drive up screening volumes. The Government plan to publish a national template later in 2008 to support primary care trusts' commissioning of chlamydia screening from community pharmacies as part of the NCSP.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that recommendations for research into myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines are met in respect of *(a)* the causes of the illness, *(b)* the clinical and cost effectiveness of intervention strategies and *(c)* identifying efficient ways to deliver domiciliary care for people who are severely affected. [201793]

Dawn Primarolo: Research recommendations made in National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines are considered on behalf of the Department by the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment programme (HTA). The director of the HTA programme meets annually with NICE for this purpose. The next of these joint meetings will be held in September.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [181317]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department started working with the Carbon Trust on the Carbon Management Programme last autumn. We are currently engaged in a tender exercise for the consultants who will work with us on the Programme.

Doctors: Pensions

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the NHS pension abatement rules on doctors who have been obliged to retire on the grounds of disability and who are re-employed by the NHS on a part-time contract. [200910]

Ann Keen: Abatement is a common feature of public service pension schemes. It affects all members of the NHS Pension Scheme who receive an enhanced national health service pension funded by the scheme or their employer if they return to NHS employment. It continues until they are aged 60 for members of the 1995 scheme, or age 65 for those members of the 2008 scheme. It does not affect those who have retired on voluntary grounds with an actuarial reduction in their pension. Abatement will usually only affect those who earn more than 50 per cent. of their previous salary.

Eyes: Diseases

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements his Department places on ophthamologists to maintain statistics to monitor the incidence of keratoconus. [200437]

Ann Keen: The majority of keratoconus patients will receive contact lenses or glasses from their optometrist or ophthalmic medical practitioner and will have their condition managed in the community.

The Department places no requirements on individual ophthalmologists to maintain statistics on such patients. Hospitals are required to collect data on the diagnosis of patients being admitted to hospital. This include those patients with a diagnosis of keratoconus.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which hospitals in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex had not been deep cleaned by the target date; and if he will make a statement; [198741]

(2) how much was given to each hospital in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex to fund its deep clean; and if he will make a statement. [198742]

Ann Keen: As set out in my written ministerial statement on 21 April, *Official Report*, columns 93-94WS, a list of the trusts which have undertaken or are undertaking a deep clean as part of this national programme is available in the Library. This list sets out which trusts completed their deep clean by 31 March 2008 and which are still undertaking their deep clean and are due to complete by the end of May 2008.

Information provided by strategic health authorities (SHAs) shows that they have all made available the funding they promised for the programme, as also set out in my written ministerial statement. Further information on the implementation of the deep clean of the national health service is available from SHAs.

Maternity Services: Merseyside

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many perinatologists are employed in each hospital trust on Merseyside. [201621]

Ann Keen: This information is not available in the format requested.

The trusts that most closely correspond within the Merseyside area have been included in the following table.

Hospital and Community Health Services: Medical staff within the Obstetrics and gynaecology specialty by organisation within the Merseyside area

	Numbers (headcount)	*Full-time equivalents*
Merseyside	124	114
Wirral Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	21	18
St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	16	16
Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	63	57
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	24	23

Notes:
1. The table is up to date as at 30 September 2007.
2. The staff information cannot be summated at such a low level. Perinatologists have therefore been substituted for staff with the obstetrics and gynaecology specialty.
3. The information does not include primary care trusts in the area, some of which may have these specialities.
4. Only organisations which have obstetrics and gynaecological staff were shown. If a trust does not appear in the table, it indicates that there were zero obstetrics and gynaecological staff. This does not necessarily mean that this service is not provided at that trust.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care—medical and dental workforce census.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations the Government has received on the likely effects of implementing the provisions of the Mental Health Act 2007 on independent mental health advocacy six months after the introduction of community treatment orders; [201872]

(2) when plans for the commissioning and implementation of mental health advocacy services under the Mental Health Act 2007 will be published; [201873]

(3) when training for mental health advocates under the Mental Health Act 2007 will begin; and what criteria will be used to select advocates. [201874]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Mental Health Alliance has asked the Department to consider placing together the implementation dates for the Mental Health Act 2007, and independent mental health advocacy provision to provide additional safeguards, particularly for patients discharged from hospital under supervised community treatment.

We aim to publish guidance on commissioning and implementing independent mental health advocacy later this year.

National training materials are currently being developed and tested. We aim to make these available for organisations to start training later this year. Local commissioners are responsible for contracting with organisations to provide independent mental health advocacy services. Departmental guidance for commissioners will provide guidance on service specifications and standards.

NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had on the possible suspension of regulation 13 of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005. [200433]

Dawn Primarolo: I discussed this matter with the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) recently and explained that there were no plans to suspend regulation 13 of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005.

I meet officials regularly to discuss questions of policy. Our White Paper 'Pharmacy in England Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future' (Cm7341) published on 3 April 2008 sets out the Government's proposals in relation to pharmacies open at least 100 hours per week which have secured the right to provide NHS services under regulation 13. Full consultation will follow later this summer.

NHS European Office

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work has been conducted by the NHS European Office since it was set up in 2007. [199416]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS European Office intends to produce a report on its activities covering the period from establishment to the end of the financial year. This will be published shortly on the Office's website.

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants with clinical excellence awards, who have been obliged to retire on the grounds of disability and have been re-employed on a part-time contract by the NHS, have been required to repay a part of their pension under NHS pension abatement rules. [200914]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are circumstances under which unused prescription medicines returned by patients may be re-allocated to other patients; and if he will make a statement. [201246]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not appropriate to promote the reuse of medicines returned from patients. The continuing quality of medicines returned from patients following storage in their homes and the ability of pharmacists to assure quality based on physical inspection cannot be guaranteed. Recycling medicines returned by patients is both unethical and unsafe.

NHS: Land

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 470W, on NHS: land, what progress has been made by his Department in examining how the review of surplus NHS land will apply to the NHS foundation trust sector; and if he will make a statement. [201978]

Mr. Bradshaw: The review of surplus land resulted in 299 national health service trusts replying to a request for details of their land holdings. About 190 sites were identified with a total area of 260 hectares, or enough for 6,300 new homes.

Of the responding trusts, 10 were foundation trusts. Discussions continue with all trusts to ensure that all surplus land is properly registered with English Partnerships.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the market forces factor on hospital trusts that employ staff at nationally agreed pay rates in areas where average earning are below national averages. [201138]

Ann Keen: The Department has commissioned two pieces of research to look at the impact of external labour markets on national health service staff costs. The first, a study on regional pay differentials in 2005 known as the 'Aberdeen Study' found that private sector wage rates were correlated with the vacancy rate for qualified nurses. As part of its current work programme, the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation has carried out a review of the market forces factor. This work will be used to inform revenue allocations to primary care trusts for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The aim is to announce the revenue allocations by the summer.

NHS: Security

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at how many sites *(a)* Safe Estates Ltd and *(b)* Camelot have been commissioned by the NHS to provide site security for existing or former hospital or medical facilities. [202519]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has responsibility for one hospital site on which it has a current contract with Safe Estates Ltd. and Camelot. There are no other known contracts that the Department has with either firm.

The Department does not hold this information in respect of hospital sites owned and operated by the national health service. It is a matter for each NHS trust to make whatever arrangements it sees fit to cover its security needs.

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many school nurses were employed by each primary care trust in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [200364]

Ann Keen: The annual national health service workforce census collected information on the number of school nurses employed by the NHS in England for the first time in 2004. A table showing the number of school nurses employed by each primary care trust in England from 2004-07 has been placed in the Library.

Plastic Surgery: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what his policy is on funding for orbicularis oculi muscle strips. [201848]

Ann Keen: Funding for orbicularis oculi muscle strips is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs), as they have their own policies covering the circumstances in which this treatment may be available on the national health service. Most policies are based around ensuring that treatment of this kind is available where there is a clinical need to secure physical or psychological health.

Radiography: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* part-trained and *(b)* fully-trained radiographers were employed by the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Foundation Trust in each year since 1997. [201926]

Ann Keen: The requested information can be found in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: headcount of radiography staff in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as at 30 September each specified year

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All radiography staff	61	66	73	71	73	80	80	82	88	84	81
Qualified Staff	51	56	60	58	59	65	68	69	75	70	70
Manager	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Therapist	45	54	58	56	57	63	66	68	73	68	68
Technician	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tutor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Unqualified Staff	10	10	13	13	14	15	12	13	13	14	11
Student/Trainee	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	6	8	6
Helper/Assistant	10	10	13	13	14	15	8	8	7	6	5

Note:
Enhanced validation processes have led to the removal of duplicate records from the non-medical census (from 2006 onwards). Although percentages were small (less than 1 per cent.), comparisons with years prior to this need to be treated with caution.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Disease: Out of Area Treatment

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients resident in Wales *(a)* received rehabilitation treatment at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Disease, Bath and *(b)* were referred for such treatment but failed to receive sanction for the referral in each of the last eight years for which figures are available. [202171]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Information about the number of patients resident in Wales, who received rehabilitation treatment at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Disease in Bath, is not held centrally. In addition, information about patients resident in Wales who failed to receive sanction for referral for rehabilitation treatment, at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Disease is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of Welsh local health boards to commission and fund rehabilitation services to meet the needs of their local populations, including the commissioning of treatment at centres in England.

Smoking: Public Places

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the smoking ban on *(a)* public health and *(b)* his Department's expenditure; and what mechanisms he has put in place to measure these effects. [201663]

Dawn Primarolo: Smokefree legislation was introduced primarily to protect people from the harm of second-hand smoke in enclosed parts of work and public places.

Research has been commissioned which will evaluate various aspects of the impact of the smokefree law in England; the resulting reports will be published once completed and peer reviewed. While it is still too early for any of the Department's commissioned research to have been published, in October 2007 Cancer Research

UK and the Tobacco Control Centre published results from a small scale study of the impact of the new law. That research found that hospitality workers exposure to harmful second-hand smoke may have fallen by 95 per cent. since 1 July 2007.

An assessment of the costs and benefits of smokefree legislation is set out in the Final Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), entitled "Final Regulatory Impact Assessment to be made under Powers in Part 1 Chapter 1 of the Health Act 2006" was published by the Department in December 2006.

Copies of the RIA are in the Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Allowances

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the level of the carer premium in the preparation of the national carer strategy. [200674]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government's review of the National Carers Strategy is examining all aspects of benefits for carers. The conclusions of the review are due to be published in summer 2008.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms for redress are available to people in circumstances where maintenance orders made by the High Court are not fully implemented by the Child Support Agency. [201847]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Child Support Agency is not responsible for implementing maintenance orders made by the High Court. Therefore such mechanisms would not be appropriate.

Departmental Standards

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to report on his Department's performance against public service agreements with deadlines of March 2008. [200467]

Mrs. McGuire: For all PSA targets with deadlines on or before March 2008, a final assessment will wherever possible be provided in the 2008 departmental report, expected to be published in mid May. Where time lags mean that a final assessment cannot be provided, progress to date will be reported. A final assessment will be given in the 2008 Autumn Performance Report or subsequent departmental report as soon as data availability allows.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was allocated to each *(a)* London local authority and *(b)* region of the UK under the discretionary payment scheme in each of the last five years; and what proportion of funding allocated was used in each case. [200824]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information has been placed in the Library.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have issued on the maximum distance a tenant in receipt of housing benefit in the private rented sector may be required to move as a result of the introduction of local housing allowance and the use of broad rental market areas as a basis for calculating allowance levels. [201225]

Mr. Plaskitt: Where a customer chooses to live is entirely a matter for the individual and their family, therefore the Department for Work and Pensions or its agencies have not issued any guidance on the maximum distance a tenant in receipt of housing benefit in the private rented sector may be required to move.

The aim of the Local Housing Allowance is to give customers a choice as to whether to rent accommodation cheaper than their Local Housing Allowance rate and keep the excess (£15 a week maximum) or be able to rent a more expensive property and pay additional rent from their own income.

Local Housing Allowance rates are set by rent officers at the median level within each Broad Rental Market Area. This means that exactly half of the rental properties within any Broad Rental Market are affordable to people claiming housing benefit.

Housing Benefit: Standards

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process a housing benefit application was in each year since 2002-03. [200450]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table:

Average days to process housing benefit and council tax benefit claims

	Number
2002-03	55
2003-04	50
2004-05	45
2005-06	37
2006-07	33
2007-08[1]	28

[1] April to September 2007. *Source:* Local Authority Management Information provided to DWP.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process a housing benefit application in the worst performing 15 per cent. of local authorities was as at March 2008. [200461]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information for March 2008 is not yet available.

Jobcentre Plus: Leaflets

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department issues to Jobcentre Plus offices about their *(a)* stock, *(b)* display and *(c)* use of public information leaflets. [195773]

Mr. Timms: The stock and display of information products in Jobcentre Plus offices is governed by the customer information display standards guidance. This guidance is available on the Jobcentre Plus intranet site. All Jobcentre Plus information leaflets, together with a specified number of DWP information leaflets, are mandatory stock items. The guidance stipulates which Jobcentre Plus leaflets are mandatory for display in Jobcentre Plus offices.

Separate internal guidance is available on the Jobcentre Plus intranet site that explains to our staff which public information leaflets are most appropriate to offer to an individual across a range of possible scenarios.

Members: Correspondence

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer Question 185261, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 4 February 2008, on children in workless households. [191465]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1858W.

Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension traces were carried out by the Pension Tracing Service in each year since 2005. [200447]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

Successful pension traces since 2005-06

	Total successful trace
2005-06	30,458
2006-07	40,165
2007-08	64,852

Notes:

1. The Pension Service achieved the PSA target of 60,000 successful traces during 2007-08.
2. In compiling this data an error has been identified in the data given in my reply to the hon. Member on 22 January 2008, Official Report, column 1895W. The response said that there had been 40,160 successful pension traces in 2006-07. This should have said that there had been 40,165 traces. I apologise to the hon. Member for this inadvertent error.

Source:

Pension Tracing System

Winter Fuel Payments: Swansea

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Swansea East constituency are eligible for winter fuel payments. [200455]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In winter 2006-07, 11,270 people in the Swansea, East constituency received a winter fuel payment. Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available but we expect the numbers to be similar.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by the Government Equalities Office to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195946]

Barbara Follett: GEO is a small department and its staff are based in Eland House in London. The vast majority of meetings are held there or in other Government buildings within walking distance. The GEO's needs for routine travel are limited and its staff are committed to minimise travelling and to use videoconferencing and teleconferencing whenever appropriate. In these circumstances GEO has no current proposals to set a target.

Females: Marriage

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the financial effect on women of changing their surnames on marriage, with particular reference to charges for amending official documents; and if she will make a statement. [201344]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The Government Equalities Office have made no assessment of the financial effect of women changing their surname on marriage.

OLYMPICS

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what payments the *(a)* London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and *(b)* the Olympic Delivery Authority have made to (i) Mandate Communications and (ii) AS Biss and Co since their establishment; on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202305]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are committed to undertake a proactive programme of engagement with central, regional, devolved, and local government. To assist this process, both organisations have procured the services of Mandate Communications (formerly known as AS Biss) to provide research and event management support. ODA spend to date with AS Biss/Mandate Communications is £6,383.65 inclusive of VAT. LOCOG, which is a privately funded company, has a separate arrangement with Mandate.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by her in the last six months. [201768]

Tessa Jowell: Information on the average number of days taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest estimate is of the cost to construct the Olympic Aquatics Centre for the 2012 Olympic Games; and for what reasons this estimate differs from initial estimates. [201376]

Tessa Jowell: The budget for the Aquatics Centre is £242 million. This iconic venue, designed by renowned architect Zaha Hadid, will provide state of the art facilities and a world class permanent legacy facility for elite and community use. The contract for the Aquatics Centre also includes constructing the land bridge that will be the main gateway into the Olympic Park and will also form part of the roof of the venue. The budget for both the Aquatics Centre and the bridge is £303 million, and this has not changed throughout the procurement process. This figure includes the contract price, allowance for inflation, an element of project management costs, VAT and the costs to convert the venue for long-term legacy use (and associated VAT and contingency). This budget is within the ODA's £6.090 billion baseline budget as set out in the statement made in December.

The Bid Book estimate for the Aquatics Centre was $117 million at 2004 prices (approximately £73 million at a USD/GBP exchange rate of 1.6). However, this did not include inflation, legacy transformation costs, project management costs or VAT.

The overall venues budget remains broadly in line with the Bid Book when an allowance is made for inflation, project management costs, transformation costs and VAT.

SCOTLAND

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199188]

David Cairns: Most ministerial and internal correspondence is now undertaken electronically although formal mechanisms are not in place to monitor the method of correspondence.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Pension Credit

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons on average were eligible for pension credit in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [199400]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

In Northern Ireland pension credit administration is a matter for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 56W, on Afghanistan: drugs, what steps *(a)* UK and *(b)* US troops are taking to support the government of Afghanistan's counter-narcotics effort. [201956]

Des Browne: As part of the UN-authorised, NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) British and American troops do not have a direct role in counter narcotics. They can, however, provide indirect support in accordance with the NATO Operational Plan for Afghanistan, such as intelligence, logistics and planning assistance.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the decision was made to put armour on the Jackal M-WMIK vehicle; whether all the M-WMIK vehicles have been armoured; whether any M-WMIK vehicles have been armoured after they were manufactured or delivered to theatre; and how much armouring each vehicle has cost. [201417]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The requirement to protect Jackal was a Key User Requirement and was stated within the Business Case, in May 2007. All vehicles delivered to the operational theatre are fitted with armour (during production), while some vehicles within the UK training fleet are not, but will be fitted retrospectively. The armour kit costs £83,000 per vehicle installation.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft lifts have been ordered; and how many will be required for each future aircraft carrier. [202674]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Each Future Aircraft Carrier requires two aircraft lifts. Four have been ordered in total.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were deployed on operations, broken down by location, in the latest period for which figures are available. [201024]

Des Browne: The following table provides the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 21 April 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation),

temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of personnel deployed by location at 21 April 2008[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	[2]14,810
of which:	
Afghanistan[3]	9,100
Iraq	3,800
At sea	430
Qatar	410
Cyprus	280
Kuwait	250
Oman	210
Kosovo	140
Bahrain	70
Other	30

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Bosnia, Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia. With the exception of Bosnia, personnel in these countries are participating in smaller UN operations, e.g. we contribute five military personnel to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

[2] Figures for Iraq and Afghanistan have been rounded to the nearest 100 for operational security reasons. Other figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding, the total is not equal to the sum of the individual locations.

[3] Figures for Afghanistan are artificially high due to the handover period while a relief in place (RIP) is in operation. The operational establishment for Afghanistan is 7,800.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Queen's Colour Squadron will cease ceremonial duties prior to its deployment to Afghanistan. [201030]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Queen's Colour Squadron will cease ceremonial duties once it has represented the RAF at the state opening of Parliament later this year prior to deployment to Afghanistan in February 2009. The precise date of this deployment has yet to be decided.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people who applied to join the armed services in 2006-07 were rejected because they did not meet fitness criteria. [200541]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of armed forces applicants in 2006-07 who were recorded as rejected before entering service because they were classified as permanently unfit were as follows:

	Number
Naval service	312
Army	825
RAF	365
Total	1,502

The figures exclude those who were temporarily unfit at the point of application but whose fitness later improved.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what specific training in tropical medicine medical officers undertaking the Army's Entry Officers course receive. [200944]

Derek Twigg: Medical officers undertaking the Army's Entry Officers course undergo two days of training in travel medicine. Specific topics for study include: Malaria and its prevention, practical parasitology, blood borne viruses, Leishmaniasis and its prevention, immunisation schedules and sources of information for travellers. Another day is spent at the Institute of Naval Medicine where students look at the effects of heat and cold injuries. In addition to these specific topics all subjects on the 13 week course include an environmental component which incorporates the treatment of casualties in hostile and remote situations.

Students also undertake public health training which includes looking at the needs of refugees and misplaced persons and their associated temporary camps.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 791W, on armoured fighting vehicles, how many individual shipments were required to transport the first tranche of Mastiff armoured vehicles into the theatre of operations; and what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest, *(c)* mean and *(d)* mode number was of individual shipments of Mastiff armoured vehicles to (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan during the delivery period of the first tranche. [201233]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The chosen method for the deployment of all tranche 1 Mastiff vehicles was by commercial air.

The number of individual consignments to Iraq was 21 and to Afghanistan was 18.

I am withholding the details of individual shipments since disclosure could reveal the strength and capability of UK forces operating in theatre, and could prejudice operational security.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 791W, on armoured fighting vehicles, how many individual shipments were required to transport all Bulldog armoured vehicles into the theatre of operations; and what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest, *(c)* mean and *(d)* mode number was of individual shipments of Bulldog armoured vehicles to (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan during the delivery period. [201234]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Bulldog armoured vehicles have not been deployed to Afghanistan.

The number of individual shipments required to transport all Bulldog armoured vehicles to Iraq was three.

I am withholding the details of individual shipments since disclosure could reveal the strength and capability of UK forces operating in theatre, and could prejudice operational security.

Defence: Internet

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's contribution is to NATO's Cyber Defence Management Authority; and if he will make a statement. [201678]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As part of the Department's cooperation on cyber defence operations with our allies, the MOD, together with other Government Departments, are fully engaged with the development of NATO's Cyber Defence Management Authority. Such cooperation would include the sharing of intelligence, experience and expertise. However, it is Government policy not to make comments on details of protective measures, techniques and strategies applied to protecting communication and information systems as these could assist potential attackers.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196739]

Derek Twigg: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/.

Armed forces and MOD staff publishing material on the internet as part of their official duties, for example on the MOD's own website, are governed by a number of internal MOD documents including training manuals and style guides.

HMS Southampton

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where *(a)* HMS Southampton and *(b)* HMS Exeter have been deployed in 2008; what plans he has for further deployments prior to their decommissioning; and if he will make a statement. [201914]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Southampton and HMS Exeter have been engaged in Maritime Security operations in UK waters during 2008. I am withholding information about these ships' future programmes as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Land Rovers have been lost due to damage sustained from an improvised explosive device or landmine in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; [201566]

(2) how many WIMIK equipped vehicles have been lost due to damage sustained from an improvised explosive device or landmine in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; [201567]

(3) how many Vector patrol vehicles have been lost due to damage sustained from an improvised explosive device or landmine in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; [201568]

(4) how many service personnel have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed by improvised explosive devices or landmines in WIMIK equipped vehicles in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq; [201569]

(5) how many service personnel have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed by improvised explosive devices or landmines in Vector patrol vehicles in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq; [201570]

(6) how many service personnel have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed by improvised explosive devices or landmines in Land Rovers in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq. [201584]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the details as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Iraq: Ports

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which projects his Department *(a)* initiated, *(b)* oversaw, *(c)* directed and *(d)* funded in connection with the modernisation of the port of Umm Qasr; and if he will make a statement. [196916]

Des Browne: Since 2003 the British Military have initiated, overseen and directed 15 reconstruction projects in the vicinity of Umm Qasr to a value of approximately £500,000. These projects have been funded by the Multi-National Force Commanders Emergency Response Programme (CERPs).

Regeneration plans for the port are now being led and co-ordinated by the government of Iraq, supported by UK and US personnel in Baghdad and southern Iraq.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department to Karian and Box since 1997. [199646]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no records held centrally of any contract awarded to Karian and Box by the Ministry of Defence since 1997.

Information on contracts awarded by Defence agencies, top level budget areas, trading funds, joint headquarters, single service commands and military units is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

War Graves: Seas and Oceans

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government have taken to protect military shipwrecks as final resting places. [201656]

Derek Twigg: The Protection of Military Remains Act (PMRA) 1986 allows the MOD to protect the remains of aircraft and ships lost while in military service from unauthorised interference. The latest tranche of wrecks designated under the Act will come into force on 1 May 2008, raising the total number of designations to 58.

WALES

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201733]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial se had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 89 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was three based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* agency workers there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [200215]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The following table shows the number of staff employed by the Wales Office from May 2005.

Details for agency staff were not kept in the format for the financial year 2005-06 and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Number of staff employed from April 2005 until March 2008

	Permanent civil servants	*Permanent non civil servants*	*Temporary staff*	*Agency staff*
2005				
May	51	2	2	—
June	49	3	2	—
July	51	3	2	—
August	51	3	2	—
September	49	3	2	—
October	53	3	1	—
November	52	3	1	—
December	55	3	1	—
2006				
January	58	3	1	—
February	58	3	1	—
March	55	3	0	—
April	55	3	0	1
May	58	3	0	1
June	58	3	0	1
July	58	3	0	1
August	57	3	0	1
September	56	3	0	1
October	58	3	1	1
November	59	3	1	1
December	56	3	1	1
2007				
January	57	3	1	1
February	59	3	1	1
March	60	3	1	1
April	56	3	3	0
May	54	3	3	0
June	55	3	3	0
July	55	3	3	0
August	51	3	3	0
September	49	3	3	0
October	51	3	3	0
November	51	3	3	0
December	46	3	4	0
2008				
January	51	4	3	0
February	51	3	3	0
March	49	3	3	1

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the total cost was of *(a)* salaries for permanent civil service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department in each month since May 2005. [200214]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Salary costs for the Wales Office are broken down in the format requested in the following table.

The figures for agency staff, in the financial year 2005-06, were not kept in this format and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs, however the annual figure for agency staff in this period was £91,923.

Salary costs from April 2005 until March 2008

£

	Permanent civil servants	*Permanent non civil servants*	*Temporary staff*	*Agency staff*
2005				
May	164,476	5,074	3,306	—
June	160,162	8,876	3,306	—
July	173,839	9,010	3,306	—
August	180,015	11,514	3,306	—
September	158,266	11,763	3,306	—
October	192,462	11,763	1,720	—
November	186,270	11,763	1,720	—
December	193,780	11,763	1,720	—
2006				
January	200,585	11,763	1,720	—
February	196,319	11,763	1,720	—
March	189,270	11,763	—	—
April	180,213	11,759	—	2,016
May	199,066	11,759	—	5,398
June	196,821	11,864	—	2,016
July	203,071	12,000	—	6,302
August	187,313	11,846	—	5,336
September	177,452	11,846	—	4,326
October	228,393	11,846	1,760	2,903
November	167,920	11,873	1,760	5,226
December	191,243	11,873	1,760	1,240
2007				
January	191,153	11,873	1,760	1,167
February	204,309	11,873	1,760	1,246
March	207,198	11,872	1,760	1,046
April	194,080	12,068	4,299	0
May	191,337	13,138	5,318	0
June	187,952	12,372	5,318	0
July	190,462	12,978	5,318	0
August	183,428	18,746	3,005	0
September	176,563	12,254	5,318	0
October	189,863	12,254	5,727	0
November	210,297	13,045	5,454	0
December	173,845	12,254	6,911	0
2008				
January	181,949	22,246	6,507	0
February	180,004	8,199	7,449	0
March	180,156	25,769	6,605	539

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201767]

Mr. Paul Murphy: To provide the answer in the format requested would incur disproportionate cost. However over the last six months the Wales Office has responded to written questions on average within four days.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parking

Mr. Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether provision is planned in the House of Commons car park for installing facilities for re-charging electric or hybrid vehicles. [200632]

Nick Harvey: There are no plans to make any special provision but the Speaker will ask the Administration Committee to look into this matter.

TRANSPORT

A12

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many representations she has received from Essex county council on the adequacy of the A12 since 2005; [202119]

(2) if she will allocate funds to the Highways Agency to hold an inquiry into the adequacy of the A12 from London to Ipswich; [202120]

(3) what plans she has for improvements to the A12 through Essex to Ipswich; and if she will make a statement; [202121]

(4) if she will allocate funds to Essex county council to undertake improvements to the A12 through Essex; and if she will make a statement. [202122]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The A12 through Essex is considered to be primarily of regional importance. Decisions on such schemes are made on the basis of advice from regional bodies, including the Regional Assembly and the Regional Development Agency, on the priorities for funding within an indicative budget. The advice provided by the East of England regional bodies in 2006, which Ministers have accepted, did not prioritise any A12 schemes in the period to 2016.

The Government intend, by the summer, to invite each region to carry out a further review of its funding priorities. This will provide an opportunity for those who support improvements to the A12 to press their case within the region.

Officials in the department have regular meetings with Essex county council and have received correspondence over the period in question from both individual councillors and the council itself.

A46: Nottinghamshire

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will amend the proposals for the dualling of the A46 between Newark and Widmerpool to keep the project within budget. [201266]

Mr. Tom Harris: The current proposals for dualling the A46 between Newark and Widmerpool forms one of the highway schemes which is planned to be funded from the East Midlands' Regional Funding Allocation for major transport schemes. The region is considering how to accommodate the A46 scheme within its recommended programme of schemes in the light of emerging cost pressures. We will carefully consider the region's advice both for the programme as a whole and in relation to the A46 scheme.

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments Network Rail made to *(a)* Mandate Communications and *(b)* AS Biss in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202274]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

Heathrow Airport: BAA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what meetings took place in 2007 between her Department's *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers and representatives of BAA to discuss the project for the development of Heathrow Airport; and on what date each took place; [201310]

(2) if she will publish the minutes or notes of each meeting that took place in 2007 between her Department's officials and representatives of BAA to discuss the project for the development of Heathrow Airport. [201311]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* No such meetings took place between Ministers and BAA. Notes of all meetings with officials prior to the issue of the recent Heathrow consultation document have been released in response to requests under the Freedom of Information Act. That information is on, or can be requested via, the Department's FOI response website (March 2008). I will see that the hon. Member is sent copies of all the relevant documents.

Heathrow Airport: Consultants

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much her Department paid to WS Atkins for its work on the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow resulting in the October 2007 technical report entitled Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow: Population Exposure to Air Pollution; and if she will make a statement; [201467]

(2) how much her Department paid to WS Atkins for its peer review work which resulted in the November 2007 report entitled Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow: Demonstrating Confidence in the PSDH Air Quality Work; and if she will make a statement. [201468]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The two reports in question were commissioned as part of the suite of supporting technical documents to the recent Heathrow consultation. The work to produce them was part of the contract with Atkins to provide technical assistance throughout the project on local air quality issues and has not been separately costed.

Kemble to Swindon Railway Line

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the Network Rail evaluation of proposals to re-double the Kemble to Swindon line, including any cost predictions. [201573]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation is currently evaluating proposals published by Network Rail this month for enhancing both the North Cotswold and the Stroud Valley lines and expects to publish its preliminary determination in June 2008.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* local authorities have made representations to (i) her and (ii) Network Rail on the re-doubling of (A) the Kemble to Swindon line and (B) the North Cotswold line. [201574]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following hon. Members have made written representations to the Department in the last three years:

Swindon—Kemble line

Geoffrey Clinton-Brown MP
David Drew MP
Mark Harper MP
Sir Malcolm Rifkind MP
Laurence Robertson MP

North Cotswold line

David Cameron MP
Geoffrey Clinton-Brown MP
David Drew MP
Michael Foster MP
Peter Luff MP
John Maples MP

We have received no written representations from local authorities about either line during this period.

My hon. Friend will need to contact the chief executive about representations made to Network Rail. His address is:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

Lorries

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* foreign and *(b)* British-registered lorries made at least one journey on UK roads in each year since 1997. [202128]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not centrally collected.

M5

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on proposals to modify junction 12 of the M5; and what plans she has for consultation prior to the introduction of any modifications. [201572]

Mr. Tom Harris: Committed developments in Gloucester will increase pressure on the M5 junction 12. Following the first release of funds from developers, the Highways Agency is about to commission the preparation of design works in respect of an improvement at the junction.

The Highways Agency will be developing a communications strategy, to include stakeholder involvement. This will provide an opportunity for interested parties to see and discuss the improvement scheme proposals.

North Cotswold Railway Line

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were used to *(a)* accept the North Cotswolds line and *(b)* reject the Stroud Valleys line for future re-doubling. [201430]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government are supportive of rail growth to meet the needs of our growing economy and we have specified and funded the high level improvements in capacity, safety and reliability required by 2014. It is for the rail industry to determine the enhancement schemes required to deliver this specification, subject to independent evaluation by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR).

The ORR is currently evaluating proposals published by Network Rail this month for enhancing both the North Cotswold and the Stroud Valley lines and expects to publish its preliminary determination in June 2008.

Ports: Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to install number plate recognition systems at all major British ports. [200676]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible, for reasons of operational security, to divulge the current level of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems currently in use at British ports. It is however, the Government's intention to ensure that ANPR systems are installed in all major British ports in the future, subject to the necessary funding being made available.

Public Transport: Yorkshire

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the tram trains for use on the Penistone line will be built in the UK. [200630]

Mr. Tom Harris: Northern Rail will undertake the procurement of tram-trains for the Penistone line trial, acting in accordance with European procurement regulations.

Railway Stations: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the number of passengers who used Halifax railway station in each of the last five years. [202093]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes data on station usage which is available from their website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Railways

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the feasibility and cost of a maglev rail system. [200629]

Mr. Tom Harris: In the preparation of the 2007 rail White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", the Department for Transport commissioned a report into maglev systems. This report reviewed a number of features of maglev systems including safety, environmental, and engineering feasibility. A copy of this report is available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

The only operational maglev in the world had costs three times higher than equivalent high speed lines.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the division of responsibilities is between *(a)* her Department and *(b)* Network Rail on (i) the safeguarding of lines for possible future expansion of the network, (ii) the building of new lines, (iii) the collection of data relating to passenger numbers before and after new lines have been opened and (iv) decisions relating to the electrification of existing lines; and if she will make a statement. [201267]

Mr. Tom Harris: Regional and local planning authorities are responsible for the safeguarding of alignments via spatial plans. The Secretary of State for Transport may issue safeguarding Directions under the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995. The Office of Rail Regulation regulates the disposal of land owned by Network Rail.

Towards a Sustainable Transport System describes a new, multi-modal approach to transport planning. Network Rail, working with the rail industry, will provide a view on the ways in which the railway can contribute most effectively to the Secretary of State's

wider transport objectives for the period from 2014. This may include new lines and electrification proposals.

Passenger demand is forecast by the sponsor of a scheme and train operators collect data on subsequent patronage.

Railways: Death

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths of *(a)* railway workers and *(b)* others occurred as a result of electrocution by the third rail in each year since 1997. [201260]

Mr. Tom Harris: The number of railway fatalities caused as a result of electrocution by the third rail in each year since 1997 are provided in the following table.

	(a) Railway employees	*(b) Others (members of the public)*
1997	0	9
1998	0	8
1999	0	13
2000	0	16
2001	0	6
2002	1	9
2003	1	12
2004	0	5
2005	0	6
2006	1	12
2007[1]	0	4

[1] The data for 2007 is provisional.

Source:
Data provided by the Office of Rail Regulation

Most fatalities result from members of the public trespassing on railway infrastructure.

Railways: Electric Cables

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway overhead lines fell down in each year since 1997. [201261]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

Railways: Theft

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much copper from signalling cables on the railways has been stolen in each of the last five years; how many thefts there were in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* North East of England, *(d)* Yorkshire and Humber, *(e)* South East, *(f)* Midlands and *(g)* South West in each of those years; and if she will make a statement. [201482]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Roads

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Nichols costs review of Highways Agency road schemes to be completed; and whether the review will be published on her Department's and the Highways Agency's websites. [201247]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency is currently in the final stages of completing revised cost estimates for their major roads projects. We expect to be in a position to publish these on the Department for Transport's and the Highways Agency's websites in the late spring.

Roads: Tax Evasion

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road tax evaders there were in *(a)* 2000-01 and *(b)* 2005-06; what proportion of these were prosecuted in 2005-06; and what the loss was of revenue as a result of such tax evasions in 2005-06. [202134]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There was no roadside survey to measure road tax evaders conducted in 2000-01. The nearest estimate available is from the 2002 roadside survey. The estimated number of unlicensed vehicles at that time was 1.76 million vehicles, representing an estimated loss of revenue through evasion of £193 million.

The 2005 roadside survey estimated the number of unlicensed vehicles as 1.55 million, with an estimated revenue loss figure of £147 million.

In 2005-06 DVLA brought 144,884 successful prosecutions at magistrates' court relating to the use of unlicensed vehicles. A further 516,808 cases were dealt with via out of court settlements.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1034-35W, on rolling stock, what requests received from train operating companies for extra rolling stock have been rejected since 1 January 2005. [201308]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The Department for Transport has frequent discussions with train operators on a range of issues, including the possibility of providing extra rolling stock. However, no formal requests to approve leases for additional vehicles have been rejected.

As part of the HLOS process, the Department for Transport is in discussions with train operators about delivering 1,300 additional vehicles.

Rolling Stock: Northampton

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for the improvement of the rolling stock on the London to Northampton train service. [202696]

Mr. Tom Harris: London Midland are committed to replacing the class 321 electric multiple units with brand new Siemens Desiro class 350 electric multiple units, on services between London and Northampton as part of its franchise.

Rolling Stock: Standards

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she takes to ensure that passengers' seating comfort is taken into account in train design; and if she will make a statement. [201219]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport is working with the industry to develop a whole life cost model for evaluating the design of rail vehicles. Passenger seating comfort is one of the many factors within the model which recognises the significance of comfortable seating in encouraging the use of rail services. The model also balances the desire for spacious seating against the requirement to provide a sufficient number of seats.

During the procurement of the Intercity Express trains the Department will be working with passenger groups to assess the relative comfort of the various proposals for passenger seating.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Hemp

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* estimate his Department has made of the costs and *(b)* assessment he has made of the merits of growing industrial hemp in England, with particular reference to the production of cellulose for (i) biodegradable plastics and (ii) paper manufacture. [200534]

Mr. Woolas: Approximately 1,416 hectares of industrial hemp are grown and processed in England, mainly for the bio-composite, construction, and animal bedding industries. Such end uses are driven by the market and represent the most cost beneficial application of this high value raw material.

The DEFRA renewable materials LINK programme is set up to assist consortia of academia and industry bring innovative technologies based on novel crops to market. New products based on hemp and hemp fibre would be eligible for consideration for LINK funding.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the merits of a licensing regime for farmers wishing to grow industrial hemp. [200535]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The United Kingdom already has a licensing regime for growing industrial hemp.

Agriculture: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the likely environmental impacts arising from the application of slurry and poultry manure to non-sandy farmland in the days immediately following the end of closed periods proposed for nitrate vulnerable zones. [200927]

Mr. Woolas: This will be included in the Government's response to the consultation, which I intend to announce and publish before Parliament breaks for summer recess.

Air Pollution: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent consideration the Government have given to lowering the maximum permissible levels of air pollution; and what assessment the Government have made of the effects of increased use of diesel vehicles on levels of air pollution. [201275]

Jonathan Shaw: A new ambient air quality directive, due to come into force in May 2008, consolidates existing EU legislation and includes new controls over very fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), where the World Health Organisation (WHO) advises that there is no safe level of exposure. The main elements are a 'backstop' limit value, to be met everywhere by 2015, and an 'exposure concentration obligation' to be met across urban background locations (as an average), also by 2015. The directive must be transposed into UK law within two years of it coming into force.

Estimates of future air pollution emissions from transport include assumptions modelling the increase in diesel car market share, with an assumption that this will stabilise at 42 per cent. in 2010. These estimates are used for assessing new vehicle emissions standards and the revised National Air Quality Strategy, published in 2007. Diesel cars currently emit significantly higher levels of both particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen than petrol cars. However, the recently agreed Euro 5 and 6 emissions standards will reduce particulate emissions from new diesel cars to comparable levels to petrol cars by 2011 and substantially reduce the difference between petrol and diesel NOx emissions by 2015.

Angling: Licensing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* full and *(b)* concessionary cost of a (i) coarse and trout and (ii) salmon and sea trout rod licence was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [201440]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the full and concessionary cost of a (i) non-migratory trout and coarse and (ii) salmon and sea trout licence in each of the last five years.

£

	Salmon and sea trout		Non migratory trout and coarse fish	
	Full	Concessionary	Full	Concessionary
2004-05	62.00	31.00	23.00	11.50
2005-06	63.50	31.75	23.50	11.75
2006-07	65.00	32.50	24.00	12.00
2007-08	66.50	33.35	24.50	12.25
2008-09	68.00	45.00	25.00	16.75

I should point out that the Environment Agency is under no legal obligation to offer rod licences to any class of persons at concessionary duty rates. Both the agency and I recognise that the increase in concessionary duty rates for this year is significant and the agency has publicly stated that it will use a significant proportion of the monies raised by the higher duty rates to improve access to angling for the disabled and senior anglers. I welcome this and I will seek evidence from the agency that it has honoured that commitment.

Biofuels: Marketing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to raise awareness of the effects of more widespread use of biofuels. [201254]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have consulted widely on their biofuel support policies since 2004. On each occasion they have drawn attention to the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of increasing levels of biofuel use. Ministers and officials have made regular presentations on this subject at conferences and other public events, and the Government have held a large number of stakeholder workshops which have been well-attended by representatives from a wide range of different interest groups.

Information on biofuels has also been made available via the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/rtfo/

and, in recent months, via the Renewable Fuels Agency's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/

The Renewable Fuels Agency will report regularly on the effects of the biofuels used under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). These reports will be made available via the RFA's website.

Climate Change: Seas and Oceans

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has conducted into the impact of the melting of ice-sheets; and what estimates his Department has made of the lowest and highest potential rise in sea levels as a result of such melting. [201323]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA funds research at the Met Office Hadley Centre (MOHC) aimed at improving the representation of ice sheets in climate models, and (through the DEFRA/Ministry of Defence funded MOHC Integrated Climate Programme) scientists at the MOHC are working with the wider academic community to study future changes in ice-sheet volume and sea level. DEFRA also funds research into the potential impacts of sea level rise on the United Kingdom through the UK Climate Impacts Programme.

The Government advise the operating authorities to factor a predicted change in the rate of sea level rise from the current 2.5 to 4 millimetres per year from 13 to 15 millimetres per year by the end of the century, depending on location, into the design of present-day river and coastal defences. As part of a precautionary approach, this advice includes predicted land level changes as well as predicted changes in global average sea level.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200720]

Jonathan Shaw: It is not appropriate to disclose values for staff, other than those whose details are reported on in Remuneration Reports in the Department's Resource Accounts. A copy of the Resource Accounts for the year 2006-07 can be found in the Library.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many respondents took part in each consultation held by his Department in each of the last three years. [198676]

Jonathan Shaw: Departments publish consultations as an integral part of their policy development work. In compliance with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation, departments publish summaries of the responses received to their consultation exercises. These state how may responses were received.

Information is not held centrally on how many respondents took part in each consultation for over the last three years. To acquire this information would be at disproportionate cost. The number of responses to DEFRA consultations varies greatly, from 12 in the case of our Consultation on the Reform of Fruit and Vegetable Regime to 16,919 responses for the Climate Change Bill.

Since January 2005 until December 2007 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has launched 289 public consultations.

The breakdown, per year, is as follows:

Calendar year	Number
2005	100
2006	108
2007	81

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that compensation is provided to under-10 metre fishing fleets when new catch limits are in place. [201921]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Monthly catch limits of quota stocks for the under 10

metre fleet are set by the Marine and Fisheries Agency, taking into account the amount of quota available to the under 10 metre fleet and estimates of the likely pattern of fishing activity. The proposed limits for 2008 were published earlier this year. These are subject to revision following discussion at quarterly meetings with representatives of the fishing fleet at quarterly meetings around the coast and in London.

I have recently consulted under 10 metre fishermen on a package of measures intended to bring fleet capacity more into line with fishing opportunity. My officials are developing detailed proposals and I expect to be able to publish a formal consultation on these proposals in the summer of this year. Compensation payments do not form part of those proposals.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for discussions between his Department and the Marine and Fisheries Agency with regard to changes to the under-10 metre fleet catch limits. [201923]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* DEFRA officials and the Marine and Fisheries Agency discuss fisheries management issues, including the under 10 metre catch limits, on a regular basis as required. For this reason, there is no set timetable for discussions.

Fisheries: Sustainable Development

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration has been given to the situation of under-10 metre fleets that use sustainable rod and line fishing methods in formulating fisheries policy [201922]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* As DEFRA continues to develop its policy on environmentally responsible fishing we will be considering the environmental impacts of all types of fishing, including rod and line fishing.

Flood Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the capacity of internal drainage boards to undertake responsibility for flood prevention beyond their traditional locations. [201325]

Mr. Woolas: The current consultation on surface water management seeks views on the role that internal drainage boards might play in producing surface water management plans in the future. It is suggested that internal drainage boards might play a greater role in managing surface water drainage in rural areas in a parallel role to the equivalent operating authority in urban areas.

The consultation suggests that operating authorities, in fulfilling their surface water drainage responsibilities, could set up a working group made up of the relevant local authorities, water companies, the Environment Agency and the relevant internal drainage boards. In certain circumstances, a local authority may choose to discharge its responsibilities for leading a surface water management plan through a relevant internal drainage board in their area. This board would then play a lead role in preparing the plan and ensuring that other operating authorities' activities are consistent with it.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authority areas fall within the catchment of an internal drainage board. [201779]

Mr. Woolas: There are approximately 170 internal drainage boards (IDB) in England and Wales concentrated mainly in East Anglia, Yorkshire, Somerset and Lincolnshire. Most IDB catchments overlap several local authority boundaries. This means there is at least one, and usually multiple local authorities within each IDB catchment.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will encourage local authorities in areas where two tiers of local government exist to form joint bodies to oversee flood prevention measures. [201782]

Mr. Woolas: Local authorities have permissive powers (but no statutory obligation) to undertake works to manage flood risk from the sea and from watercourses for which the Environment Agency and internal drainage boards do not hold such powers. In areas where there are two tiers of local government, county councils will not normally exercise such powers unless this has been requested by the district council.

The current consultation on surface water management is considering the role that local authorities might play in preparing surface water management plans. It suggests that such plans should be prepared by the same tier of authority that currently prepares strategic flood risk assessments. In two-tier authorities, this is normally the district council, although this can depend on local circumstances.

Where flooding issues cut across district boundaries within a county, district councils would provide the detailed surface water management plan as the local planning authority, with county councils potentially exercising a scrutiny function across several local authorities.

We are currently reviewing the responsibilities of all delivery bodies involved in flood risk management and will look to the recommendations from the Pitt Review to determine how any changes might be implemented.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will encourage localised measurement of rainfall to present more accurate information on potential flooding. [201783]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency maintains a network of 750 telemetered rain-gauges which feed data directly into computer models to forecast river levels, using the national flood forecasting system (NFFS). The Environment Agency is about to gain access to a further 110 telemetered rain-gauges that are owned by the Met Office. The Environment Agency also maintains a network of 2,250 rain-gauges across England and Wales that are monitored on a daily basis and which are used in a planning capacity to establish potential flood risk.

Due to the limitations of measuring rainfall at fixed point locations, spatial data on actual and forecast rainfall is provided by a network of weather radars (which measure rainfall to a resolution up to 1 sq km), and by the Met Office's weather forecasting models. The Environment Agency has evaluated each area with a flood risk to ensure that each is served with information from an appropriate number of rain-gauges or data from weather radar. Where gaps are identified, then improvements in rain-gauge coverage (and/or weather radar) are under way.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers are available to a person who is appointed as a flood warden by a parish or town council. [201785]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency recently produced a policy statement on the use of flood wardens for flood warning purposes and supports the practice of using volunteers in local communities in times of flooding. Flood wardens provide community cohesion and support during and after flooding.

The Environment Agency is not aware of any powers available to volunteers who undertake this role.

Floods: Construction

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions the Environment Agency has objected to a development on the basis of flood risk in the last five years, broken down by local authority; and what the outcome of the application was in each case. [201784]

Mr. Woolas: The high level target (HLT) 5 (previously HLT 12) and its appendices, provide information on the impact of the technical advice on flood risk provided by the Environment Agency on planning decisions made by English local planning authorities. This includes a list of all of the Environment Agency's objections on flood risk grounds (major and minor development).

All annual HLT reports compiled by the Environment Agency, from 2000-01 on development and flood risk, have been submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (and before that to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), with recent reports copied to Communities and Local Government.

The Environment Agency's list of all its objections lodged during 2006-07, are currently available via the Environment Agency's website and copies of the annual HLT report from 2001-02 have been placed in the Library of the House.

Livestock: Exports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* cattle or calves, *(b)* sheep and *(c)* other livestock species were exported from the UK for (i) further fattening and (ii) slaughter in 2007. [201169]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not collected centrally and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Local Food Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria he has established to determine eligibility for the local food scheme; and whether such criteria vary between regions. [201256]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply as Minister with responsibility for national lottery issues.

The Local Food programme is run by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts as an award partner of Big Lottery Fund. It is one of five England wide award partner programmes funded through the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. Not-for-profit community groups and organisations in England can apply to the Local Food programme. The eligibility criteria do not vary between regions. For full details of eligibility criteria and further information about the programme visit:

www.localfoodgrants.org

Natural Gas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has commissioned or funded into gas use in households which have introduced energy efficiency measures. [201324]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has a research programme in place to test and quantify the in-situ performance of energy efficiency measures. We have also undertaken research into householder 'comfort taking'. This research feeds back into the modelling and the carbon savings prescribed to policies in the climate change programme.

Although yet to be fully quantified, we now know that UK gas consumption has fallen 12 per cent. since 2005, which we believe to be at least in part the impact of our regulatory energy efficiency policies such as the supplier obligation and building regulations.

Packaging: Recycling

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage the introduction of a standardised labelling system indicating the recyclability of product packaging. [201556]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has helped the British Retail Consortium (BRC) to develop a voluntary scheme for on-pack labelling on recycling. WRAP and the BRC consulted on the scheme in November 2007, and expect to launch it formally soon.

Pet Travel Scheme

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of failure of microchips used to obtain pet passports there were in each of the last five years. [200967]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* Animal Health (AH) do not hold records of pets whose microchips have failed when scanned by their local vet.

AH do hold records of microchip failures when pets are presented at ports of entry. These show that, between 1 January 2003 and 1 January 2008, 297 pets were presented at ports and were refused entry into the UK under PETS due to microchip failure.

Plastic Bags: Taxation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to exempt plastic bags made from biodegradable film from the proposed plastic bag tax. [202677]

Joan Ruddock: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget on 12 March that we will introduce legislation to require retailers to impose a charge on single-use carrier bags from 2009, if retailers have not achieved a substantial reduction in the number of bags distributed on a voluntary basis.

The criteria for the types of bags subject to the charge, and any appropriate exemptions, will be a matter for secondary legislation. This will be consulted on beforehand.

However, as the purpose of the proposed charge is to reduce the numbers of all types of single-use carrier bags being distributed, there are no current plans to exempt bags made from biodegradable film.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether plastic bags manufactured before the start date for any plastic bag tax will be subject to the tax. [202678]

Joan Ruddock: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget on 12 March that we will introduce legislation to require retailers to impose a charge on single-use carrier bags from 2009, if retailers have not achieved a substantial reduction in the number of bags distributed on a voluntary basis.

The criteria for the types of bags subject to the charge, and any appropriate exemptions, will be a matter for secondary legislation. This will be consulted on beforehand.

However, as one of the aims of the proposed charge is to change consumers' behaviour by ensuring that they have to pay a small—but meaningful—charge every time they accept a single-use bag, there are no current plans to exempt bags on the basis of the date on which they were manufactured.

Recreation Spaces: Urban Areas

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under what circumstances the public may be excluded from land designated as a town green under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006. [200072]

Jonathan Shaw: There is some uncertainty over this issue, but our view is that local inhabitants have a right to indulge in lawful sports and pastimes on a registered town or village green. However, such rights do not extend to the public generally.

Tobacco: Wastes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the percentage of waste accounted for by tobacco-related products. [201327]

Jonathan Shaw: No estimate has been made of the amount of waste accounted for specifically by tobacco-related products.

However, the most comprehensive measure of litter on the street today is that provided by the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England, conducted by ENCAMS on DEFRA's behalf. The survey is based on a random selection of 12,000 sites across a third of all England's local authority areas. The percentage of tobacco related products is shown in the following table.

	Percentage of sites on which smoking related litter is found
2001-02	60
2002-03	63
2003-04	79
2004-05	79
2005-06	79
2006-07	78

Water: Conservation

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage the manufacture and sale of water efficient toilets that have a flush volume that is lower than the water regulation standard flush volume of six litres. [201555]

Mr. Woolas: The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations currently set minimum levels of water efficiency performance for key water using appliances such as WCs, urinals, dishwashers and washing machines. A review of the regulations over the coming year will include options for setting new performance standards for key water using fittings. These measures will apply to individual appliances installed in both new and existing houses and non-domestic buildings.

DEFRA is working with Communities and Local Government on measures to improve the standard of water efficiency in new homes. New provisions in building regulations and the Code for Sustainable Homes set new performance standards for new homes, which will encourage the take-up of efficient water fittings.

Additionally the enhanced capital allowance (EGA) scheme for water efficient technologies provides accelerated tax relief to businesses investing in designated sustainable water technologies, including efficient toilets with flush volumes below six litres.

To assess future consumption trends for WCs, and identify what actions are necessary to improve WC design and efficiency, the Government's market transformation programme (MTP) has published a number of documents related to the water use of WCs. These documents are available on the MTP website.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effects of expenditure on the 2012 London Olympics on arts funding. [201377]

Margaret Hodge: ACE Lottery will be contributing a total of £112.5 million towards the costs of the 2012 London Olympics, spread over the four years leading up to the Games. That amounts to £28 million per year, i.e. 5 per cent. of the expected total income for the arts in the period 2008-09 to 2011-12. There will still be approximately £500 million of new Lottery money for ACE over those four years and existing Lottery commitments will not be affected.

The Government have a proud record of support for the arts and over the last 10 years we have increased funding to the arts by 73 per cent. in real terms. In October 2007, we announced that grant-in-aid funding for Arts Council England (ACE) would continue to rise above inflation to £467 million by 2010-11, i.e. an increase of 3.3 per cent. above inflation over three years.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1049W, on departmental ICT, how many missing or stolen *(a)* laptops and *(b)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by his Department; and at what cost. [202477]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All of the PDAs lost or stolen since 2001 have been replaced. The value of each is not recorded but as a guide the current price of a PDA is 159. All of the laptops were replaced by re-allocating existing equipment.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199624]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in the Department for each month since May 2005 are shown in the tables.

We have no permanent non-civil service posts.

(a) Monthly salaries

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
April	1,825,994	1,856,522	1,798,460
May	1,507,322	1,611,615	1,844,678
June	1,722,074	2,061,361	1,935,462
July	1,675,197	1,922,990	2,097,366
August	1,684,675	1,869,716	1,816,795
September	1,631,500	1,826,360	1,822,462
October	1,695,013	1,761,219	1,925,348
November	2,081,117	2,362,426	2,717,239
December	1,910,297	2,044,969	1,901,508
January	1,668,386	1,947,021	1,913,558
February	1,858,986	1,852,777	1,973,384
March	1,935,125	2,063,844	Not yet available

Notes:
1. March 2008 awaiting updates.
2. November each year includes annual pay award and arrears of pay.
3. Figures include all permanent civil servants, Ministers and special advisers.

(c) Monthly temporary/agency costs

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
April	57,522	85,534	191,730
May	53,219	384,378	83,042
June	36,892	226,408	150,263
July	42,155	101,470	73,037
August	47,698	226,436	214,088
September	49,650	119,468	166,293
October	50,117	91,831	372,835
November	53,796	116,008	252,150
December	39,853	58,364	166,612
January	56,428	133,062	182,602
February	148,215	83,283	197,794
March	163,017	103,960	287,909

Notes:
1: Figures are based on monthly transactions before year end adjustments for the Department's statutory accounts.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200734]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There would be no effect on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's expenditure from increasing the employee contribution by one per cent. to each pension scheme for which it is responsible.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201756]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the average number of days taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fossils

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he proposes to take steps to bring fossils within the remit of the Waverly system; and if he will make a statement. [201010]

Margaret Hodge: I do not propose to bring fossils within the remit of the Waverley System. The export

legislation for which my Department is responsible covers cultural goods only and does not cover fossils, since they are neither manufactured nor produced.

Gaming

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many adult gaming centres have closed in the last 12 months. [202522]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not hold centrally information on gaming centres.

Sports: Drugs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the new independent anti-doping agency to be established; and if he will make a statement. [202345]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport has been developing a business case outlining its proposals for the new National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO). This was presented to me on 28 April.

Decisions on the new organisation, including possible timescales for establishment, will be made following consideration of the business case.

Strategic, Necessary and Proportionate Test

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on developing his Department's Strategic, Necessary and Proportionate test. [202338]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The SNaP test was developed by Departmental staff as part of the DCMS Transformation Programme, following the Department's Capability Review. Staff costs for this specific element of the Transformation Programme are not held but are expected to be minimal.

Theatres: Closures

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regional theatres closed in each year since 1997. [194916]

Margaret Hodge: Information on independent theatres and theatres funded only by local authorities is not held centrally.

The following information provides a breakdown of producing theatres receiving Arts Council funding that have closed, are currently closed temporarily and that have opened since 2002. Arts Council England does not hold data on theatre closures and openings prior to the merger of the Arts Council of England and the Regional Arts Boards in 2002.

	Theatres	*Region*
Closures		
December 2004	The Bridewell, City of London	London
January 2007	The Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke (Venue reopened under the management of Anvil Arts in September 2007)	South East
March 2007	Gardner Arts Centre, Brighton	South East
	Total	3
Current theatre temporary closures		
January 2007	Leicester Haymarket (temporarily closed, new venue 'Curve' to open autumn 2008)	East Midlands
March 2007	Chester Gateway (temporarily closed, new performing arts centre to open in 2010-11)	North West
September 2007	Bristol Old Vic (temporarily closed. Funding confirmed for 2008-09)	South West
February 2008	Derby Playhouse (closed at present, in administration. Funding for produced theatre in Derby confirmed for 2008 to 2011)	East Midlands
	Total	4
Theatre openings		
February 2003	Hampstead theatre (Camden)	London
May 2005	M6 theatre studio (Rochdale)	North West
September 2005	Burnley Youth Theatre	North West
December 2005	Unicorn (Southwark)	London
September 2007	Round Theatre (Newcastle)	North East
	Total	5

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

ConstructionSkills: Stratagem

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what payments ConstructionSkills made to *(a)* Fishburn Hedges, *(b)* Stratagem and *(c)* Grayling Political strategy in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202261]

Mr. Lammy: I have written to Peter Lobban, the chief executive officer of CITB-ConstructionSkills, asking him to reply to the hon. Gentleman's question directly.

Apprentices: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on family incomes of young people taking on work-based apprenticeships with day release to college which are not eligible for education maintenance allowance and which result in the loss of child benefit, tax credits, child support agency and other passported benefits. [202425]

Mr. Lammy: In 2004 a cross-departmental review on financial support for 16 to 19-year-olds reported that apprenticeship pay should be on par with the overall package of financial support provided to learners in other learning routes. In response, the Government set

an expectation that apprentices be paid a weekly wage of at least £80 per week which is broadly the equivalent of the package of child and family benefits paid in respect of unwaged learners. A research survey published by the Department in April 2008 showed that average apprenticeship pay has risen in line with inflation since 2005, from a weekly average of £137 to £170 in 2008. A copy of the survey report will be placed in the Library. To ensure that apprenticeship pay remains at least on par with financial support for other learning routes, the Government have remitted the Low Pay Commission to report on apprenticeship pay by February 2009. The Government will consider its findings once they have been published.

Business: Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many *(a)* British nationals, *(b)* EU citizens, *(c)* non-EU citizens and *(d)* individuals in total with a Masters degree or equivalent M-level or continuing professional development qualification received a Master of Business Administration degree from each institution in each of the last 10 years; [201605]

(2) how many *(a)* British nationals, *(b)* EU citizens, *(c)* non-EU citizens and *(d)* individuals in total received a Masters degree from each institution in each of the last 10 years; [201606]

(3) how many *(a)* British nationals, *(b)* EU citizens, *(c)* non-EU citizens and *(d)* people in total received PGCEs in each subject from each institution in each of the last 10 years; [201607]

(4) how many UK nationals of each *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* ethnic group completed an equal or lower qualification following (i) full-time and (ii) part-time study in each subject at each institution in each of the last 10 years; [201609]

(5) how many *(a)* British nationals, *(b)* EU citizens, *(c)* non-EU citizens and *(d)* people in total who already had a PGCE qualification received a Masters degree or equivalent or lower qualification except an M-Level or continuing professional development qualification in each subject from each institution in each of the last 10 years. [201611]

Bill Rammell: Most of the information is not held centrally or could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The data we hold are set out in tables which have been placed in the Libraries.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201745]

Mr. Lammy: All property occupied by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is managed on our behalf by, and is the responsibility of, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and the Department for Children Schools and Families. Therefore steps taken to reduce energy consumption in those Departments will apply to his Department as well.

No separate figures are yet available for departmental expenditure on energy.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based. [200721]

Mr. Lammy: Arising from its responsibilities as an employer, the Department has to ensure that appropriate employer pension contributions are made to the pension schemes into which its employees make contributions under their contract of employment. The Department does not have responsibility for the management of these schemes.

The overriding majority of my Department's staff are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

The information sought in the question is contained in the resource accounts of the pension schemes.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91. [200722]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was established as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007.

Arising from its responsibilities as an employer, the Department has to ensure that appropriate employer pension contributions are made to the pension schemes into which its employees make contributions under their contract of employment. The Department does not have responsibility for the management of these schemes.

The overriding majority of employees in the Department are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

Information about pension scheme liabilities in present value terms is shown in scheme resource accounts (since 2000/01), although these are produced under differing sets of assumptions—for example, of longevity—so are not comparable across years.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200723]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was established as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007.

Arising from its responsibilities as an employer, the Department has to ensure that appropriate employer pension contributions are made to the pension schemes into which its employees make contributions under their contract of employment. The rate and cost information being sought is contained in the pension scheme resource accounts (since 2000/01).

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be from increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200724]

Mr. Lammy: An increase in the employee contribution would not affect the Department's expenditure.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200725]

Mr. Lammy: The majority of the information requested will be set out in the Departmental Remuneration Report, which is part of the Department's accounts.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many public consultations have been held by his Department since its establishment; and how many respondents took part in each consultation. [198644]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has launched eight public consultations since its establishment. The number of respondents that took part in the process for each consultation is stated in the following table. Please note that "a respondent" may be an individual or equally it can be an organisation representing the views of its full membership of thousands. The tracking system cannot distinguish between the two.

Title of consultation	*Number of respondents*	*Closing date (if ongoing)*
Confidence in standards: regulating and developing qualifications and assessment	80 responses	—
The role of further education providers in promoting community cohesion, fostering shared values and preventing violent extremism	5 responses to date	6 May 2008
Raising expectations: enabling the system to deliver	14 responses to date	9 June 2008
Higher education at work—high skills: high value	07 July 2008	—
Informal adult learning—shaping the way ahead	173 formal written responses to date; also consultation events are being held including a citizen's jury, a national learner panel and more	12 June 2008
Focusing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) on community cohesion	195 written responses; also 11 consultation events held for learners & stakeholders with around 1000 people involved	4 April 2008
Innovation Nation	280 responses	14 February 2008
Improvement in the further education sector—a consultative prospectus for a new sector owed organisation.	92 responses	—

Financial Services Skills Council: Cicero Consulting

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what payments the Financial Services Skills Council made to Cicero Consulting in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202262]

Mr. Lammy: The Financial Services Skills Council has contracted with Cicero Consulting since December 2006. The payments and contract between Financial Services Skills Council and Cicero Consulting are current and commercial in confidence. Under the arrangements Cicero Consulting provide expertise and advice on financial services for a fixed amount of hours per month. It is important that the SSC has a sound understanding of the issues faced by and the views of the industry and consumers.

Part-Time Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of making the support available to part-time 19 to 25-year-olds enrolled on their first full level 3 course equivalent to that of full-time, home-based, first degree undergraduates in respect of *(a)* grants, *(b)* maintenance loans and *(c)* fee loans; and if he will make a statement. [196896]

Bill Rammell: Our internal modelling estimates for extending the Level 3 entitlement to adults aged 25-29 is around £20 million over the CSR period (i.e. from 2008/09 to 2010/11) in respect of tuition fees. Our estimate of extending it to adults aged 25-34 is around £40 million over the same period. This is probably near

the bottom end of likely costs: were participation to increase as a result of the entitlement, costs could be much greater.

We currently have no plans to extend the Level 3 entitlement beyond its current age-range of 19-24.

Student Loans Company: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much money was retained by the Student Loans Company for eventual repayment to graduates in each month of the last year for which figures are available; [200279]

(2) how much money has been refunded to graduates by the Student Loans Company (SLC) in the form of *(a)* refunds of overpayments for people who have extinguished their debt, *(b)* refunds for people who have overpaid but who continue to owe money to the SLC and *(c)* refunds for any other reason in each of the last five years. [200280]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company (SLC) does not retain funds to repay student loan borrowers, but refunds any overpayments from the cash repayments it receives from borrowers. Refunds include any interest due, which is awarded at the same rate of interest as that charged on student loans (matching the Retail Price Index). The net repayments collected by the SLC are paid back to the Government on a monthly basis.

Refunds to borrowers who continue to owe money to the SLC may arise for a number of reasons—mainly due to administrative errors or because their overall annual income is below the annual repayment threshold (£15,000) but income at some paydates in the year exceeds the weekly or monthly threshold.

The amounts refunded to borrowers by the SLC for the five years commencing 2002-03 are set out in the following table. Refunds in 2006-07 represented 1.7 per cent. of the repayments collected by SLC totalling £529,800,000.

£

Type of refund	*Financial year* 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Borrowers who have extinguished their debt	764,124	2,324,109	4,314,058	6,796,132	8,184,667
Borrowers who have overpaid but continue to owe money	1,051,751	873087	1,468,336	1,558,074	1,039,750
Total	1,815,875	3,197,196	5,782,394,	8,354,206	9,224,417

Notes:
1. Includes income contingent (ICR) loans and publicly owned mortgage style (MS) loans.
2. Domicile—England for ICR loans and England and Wales for MS loans.
3. It was not practical to isolate other refunds from the category of borrowers who continue to owe money.

Students: Grants

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of part-time undergraduates in England studying *(a)* between 50 per cent. and 59 per cent., *(b)* between 60 per cent. and 74 per cent. and *(c)* 75 per cent. or more of a full-time course received a fee grant in the last year for which figures are available; [200287]

(2) what the average value was of the fee grant received by part-time undergraduates studying *(a)* between 50 per cent. and 59 per cent., *(b)* between 60 per cent. and 74 per cent. and *(c)* 75 per cent. or more of a full-time course in the last year for which figures are available. [200288]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not available centrally.

Students: Loans

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Devon of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 84-6WS, on Education (Student Support) Regulations, how much in *(a)* student loans and *(b)* maintenance grants was paid to prisoners undertaking full-time higher education courses in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how much has been repaid to the Student Loans Company by such prisoners since it was established. [196706]

Bill Rammell: In his written statement on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on the Education (Student Support) Regulations, the Secretary of State announced that he was amending the student support regulations to disallow prisoners who were also full-time students from receiving financial support for maintenance, thereby removing the long-standing provision which had allowed prisoners to claim such support. In a further written statement on 25 March 208, *Official Report*, column 6WS, he announced that an investigation showed that 154 individual prisoners had received some form of maintenance payment while a full time student since 1998. In total, prisoners received £570,000 in maintenance loans and £160,000 in maintenance grants over that period. The investigation also showed that assessments for student support were carried out in accordance with the rules that applied at the time. There was also evidence of some maintenance payments made to prisoners between 1990 and 1998.

The following table shows the amounts in maintenance loans and maintenance grants paid to prisoners undertaking full-time higher education courses in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available.

Academic year	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Student Loans[1]	12,675	19,912	13,602	19,879	39,860	41,587	60,285	105,437	143,564	108,670
Maintenance Grants[2]	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,189	24,999	68,704	54,816
Total	12,675	19,912	13,602	19,879	39,860	41,687	69,474	130,436	212,268	163,486

[1] Student Loans consist of pre-1998 mortgage-style loans; income contingent loans introduced in 1998 and transitional loans (1998/99).
[2] Maintenance grants consist of the former Higher Education grant in 2004/05 and 2005/06 and maintenance grant from 2006/07.

Repayment of student loans by prisoners is the same as for other borrowers. For income contingent loans, borrowers start to repay in the April after they graduate or withdraw from their course. Repayment is linked to income and repayable through the PAYE or Self Assessment Tax system and is at 9 per cent. on earnings above £15,000 a year. Interest paid is linked to the rate of inflation, so in real terms what is paid back is equivalent to what was borrowed. The repayments to the Student Loans Company by these borrowers and posted to their accounts as at 19 March, 2008 is shown in the table as follows.

Loan type	Amount repaid (£)
Mortgage Style loans	3,566
Income Contingent Repayments (covers repayments to end March 2007).	22,091
Total repaid	25,657

The figures do not include payments that have been made but not yet credited to Borrowers' accounts. Prisoners will typically take longer to start repayments than other students. For example, some prisoners will complete their course several years before release; and there will therefore be a longer period between prisoners finishing their studies and starting work and earning above the annual threshold.

Students: Part-Time Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of undergraduate part-time students in England are studying between 30 and 49 per cent. of a full-time course. [200290]

Bill Rammell: In academic year 2006/07 there were 33,400 English domiciled part-time undergraduates studying in the UK at between 30 per cent. and 49 per cent. of an equivalent full-time course. This represents 7 per cent. of part-time undergraduate students.

Training: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the foundation learning tier under the *(a)* adult learner response strand and *(b)* employer response strand has been allocated to (i) 14 to 19 year olds and (ii) 19 and over in (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10 and (C) 2010-11. [202433]

Mr. Lammy: The joint grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council from this Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (November, 2007) set out the Government's funding strategy for learning and skills over the comprehensive spending review period (2008-09 to 2010-11).

All planned expenditure for the foundation learning tier (FLT) through the adult learner responsive and employer responsive model relates to adults aged 19 and over. This is set out in the following table in line with Annex B to the grant letter.

Planned expenditure for foundation learning tier 2008-09 to 2010-11

£ million

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Adult learner responsive model	243	275	290
Employer responsive model	16	15	15

Planned expenditure for 14-19 year olds is based on the expected route of learning such as schools, further education and work-based learning rather than level of learning. The LSC statement of priorities presents these figures for 16-18 year olds only as 14-16 year olds are funded by local authorities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to ensure that local authorities apply business rates to phone masts at a single uniform rate. [201904]

John Healey: Authorities have no discretion over the level of business rates they apply to phone masts in their areas. Legislation requires this to be charged at a uniform rate on the rateable value of the hereditament incurred, subject to any other reliefs, which are also determined by legislation.

Allotments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the provision of allotments; and what role her Department has in such provision. [202130]

Mr. Iain Wright: A revised good practice guide, "Growing in the Community", was published by the Local Government Association in March 2008, and includes a section on allotment provision. A free copy was sent to all local authorities.

The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and

Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide allotments where they perceive a demand for them in their area. Furthermore, "Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation", 2002 requires local authorities to make provision for all types of open space and requires them to undertake robust assessments of local needs and audits of existing open space, to establish standards for new provision. By implementing the guidance in PPG17, local authorities should make adequate provision for allotments.

Career Structure

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans she has for the training and development of finance staff in her Department's headquarters under the Finance Professionalism agenda; and whether those proposals have been *(a)* equality-proofed under Civil Service equality provisions and *(b)* subject to an equality impact assessment; [202210]

(2) how many staff within the finance team in her Department's headquarters have been promoted under the Finance Professionalism agenda; [202211]

(3) how many staff within the finance team in her Department's headquarters have been promoted in the last 12 months otherwise than under the provisions of the Finance Professionalism agenda; [202212]

(4) whether her Department's trade union side or the relevant recognised trade unions was consulted on the Finance Professionalism agenda before it was announced to staff; and whether the trade union side or the relevant recognised trade unions has written to her Department seeking consultation on the Finance Professionalism agenda. [202213]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The agenda for financial management and finance professionalism is mandated by HM Treasury. The objectives are:

"Delivering world class standards of financial management in Government requires the cost effective translation of resources into desired outcomes. This means having the right decision making structures in place, and the financial information and skills capacities to operate them.

In seeking to deliver world class standards of financial management the Treasury aims to:-

Promote improvements in the effectiveness of financial management and finance professionalism in Government.

Implement reporting frameworks that build on best practice and deliver efficient and effective integrated reporting mechanisms for Government financial data.

Promote excellent accountability in the use of public funds through setting standards of governance, risk management and internal control."

Delivery of the Finance Professionalism agenda in each Government Department is the responsibility of the Head of Finance Professionalism. They operate within the framework and accountabilities established by Dame Mary Keegan within the auspices of the Government Finance Profession.

For details of the role see:

http://thegfp.treasury.gov.uk/professional/hofps_58.html

The accountabilities include training and development of finance staff. Communities and Local Government ("CLG") participate in the "Big 7" group of Heads of Finance Professionalism in sharing best practice and developing the professionalism agenda.

In September 2007, CLG launched its current training and development programme for finance staff. At present, this is focused on London-based staff and has not yet been rolled out to the Government offices and the shared service centre. The main strands of the training and development programme are:

Continuous professional development activities and events for qualified and part qualified staff.

"Bite sized" learning events on both finance and other Professional Skills for Government ("PSG") topics that are relevant to CLG for all finance staff.

Professional training courses for a CCAB qualification delivered by England's leading providers and open to all finance staff.

Development of a set of finance competencies, based on best practice, against which finance staff can benchmark themselves.

The training and development programme has been equality-proofed and subject to an equality impact assessment. Specifically:

There is no limitation on any finance staff attending training and development events.

There is no funding limitation or restrictions in finance staff taking up professional training.

The training providers have a range of courses, including day release; evening study; weekend study and distance learning to fully meet flexible working requirements. There are no restrictions on which course finance staff select and there are generous study leave arrangements.

The training providers operate from a number of localities to meet the needs of finance staff.

The finance training manager provides open support and is available to assist with any individual difficulties.

The training and development programme also covers non-finance staff and provides for accessibility and support for finance Professional Skills for Government through the National School of Government "Finance Love Learning" portal.

There are approximately 135 finance staff based in central London. Since the launch of the current finance professionalism scheme in September, there have been six promotions internally on successful completion of accountancy examinations. Three finance staff have been promoted on transfer to other Government Departments, including one to the senior civil service. In addition, three members of the CLG fast stream have joined the Government Finance Profession ("GFP") fast stream.

Prior to the new scheme, only one member of staff had been promoted in the preceding five months from 1 April 2007. This promotion was of a member of staff who had worked independently to pass accountancy qualifications.

The Finance Professionalism agenda is a Government-wide initiative, the objectives of which are publicly set out on the GFP website.

For details see:

http://thegfp.treasury.gov.uk/home.aspx

The policy strands of the current training and development programme were discussed with the trade union side on 7 September 2007.

On 28 January 2008, the PCS union wrote to the Head of Finance Professionalism in relation to the finance competency framework that had been issued to support finance staff unable to take finance qualifications. On 29 January, the Head of Finance Professionalism wrote to the PCS to answer the questions that they had raised and offered to meet the PCS to discuss any concerns. There have been regular communications to staff.

Council Tax

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it a requirement for local authorities to check households appearing in the electoral register against the council tax database to ensure that two-into-one property conversions are properly assessed for council tax; and if she will make a statement. [201143]

John Healey: Maintaining a list of bandings for council tax purposes is already the statutory responsibility of the Valuation Office Agency.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what her Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201747]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government have taken numerous steps to reduce its energy consumption over the last twelve months.

The Department has developed a detailed Energy Efficiency Action Plan which provides a structured, timetabled approach to reducing its carbon emissions. Efficiency controls have been fitted to fans and pumps, and plant operating hours have been reduced. The building energy management system in the Department's main headquarter building has also been upgraded to enable more effective control of heating and cooling. Air conditioning plant has remained off during the winter season, and external solar blinds have been permanently lowered during summer periods to reduce solar gain. An audit was also undertaken to ensure that sensors fitted to lights were operating as intended. (The Department's office floor lighting is fitted with daylight and movement sensors which automatically switch lights off after 2 ½ minutes of inactivity.)

Ongoing staff awareness campaigns continue to help towards reducing the energy consumption of office equipment and the total number of computer printers has been reduced. The Department also participated in the Lights Out London energy efficiency awareness raising event.

As part of the Department's wider estate rationalisation strategy, the total number of buildings occupied has been reduced, thereby reducing total energy consumption across the estate.

Actions taken to reduce energy consumption within the Department's executive agencies have included installation of more energy efficient lighting systems, reductions in heating plant operating hours, installation of timer devices on boilers and investigations into options for on-site renewable energy generation.

Energy expenditure in the last twelve months and the twelve months immediately preceding was as follows:

		£
	2006-07	*2007-08*
London headquarters	1,447,997	895,565
Executive Agencies	2,322,468	1,802,928

These figures do not include data from the regional Government Offices.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by her Department since July 2007. [198309]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has sponsored five Acts that have received Royal Assent during or after July 2007. Four of these have not created any criminal offences:

The Ratings (Empty Properties) Act;

The Greater London Authority Act;

The Planning Gain Supplement (Preparations) Act; and

The Sustainable Communities Act.

Section 130 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health (LGPIH) Act 2007 creates an offence of failing to provide address details when required to do so, or providing a false address, as part of arrangements to allow for a fixed penalty to be paid in lieu of prosecution for byelaw offences.

The LGPIH Act also includes provision in section 194 which whilst not creating criminal offences per se, can be used in regulations to replicate existing offences contained in section 63 of the Local Government Act 2000 relating to improper disclosure of information.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what budget each Minister in her Department has for entertainment in 2008-09. [202085]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Ministers do not hold entertainment budgets. All hospitality is provided in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the effect on her Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which her Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if she will make a statement. [200739]

Mr. Dhanda: An increase in 2007-08 employee contributions for the firefighters' pension scheme 1992 and the new firefighters' pension scheme 2006 of 1 per cent. would amount to £10 million. An increase in employee contributions to the local government pension scheme would amount to some £300 million on the latest figures available.

The impact of these on the budgets of fire and rescue authorities and other local authorities would depend on other factors including any knock-on effect of the change on pay, recruitment or retention.

Domestic Wastes: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1248W, on carbon dioxide emissions, what role household waste plays in any definition of zero carbon. [202472]

Mr. Iain Wright: Household waste has no role to play specifically in the definition of zero carbon, which is focused on the energy performance of the home in relation to energy use from cooking, washing and electronic appliances as well as space heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting and hot water. However, the Code for Sustainable Homes contains a minimum entry requirement on household waste which must be met in order to gain a star rating against the code at any level. This ensures that when developers are building to higher environmental standards, and ultimately zero carbon standards at level 6 of the code, waste is taken into account in the design, construction and occupation of the house.

East of England Regional Assembly: Elections

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on direct elections to the East of England Regional Assembly; and if she will make a statement. [202091]

John Healey: I have received no such representations. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1397W, which sets out the Government's policy on regional assemblies.

Farms: Planning Permission

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to amend planning legislation to enable farmers to build on-farm accommodation for their children more easily. [201222]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government recognise that rural communities do face particular housing pressures. That is why the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell has been asked to conduct an independent review to advise and assist Government on how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing, and which is due to report in July this year.

The policy approach in Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" (PPS3) and Planning Policy Statement 7: "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" (PPS7) allows the development of new dwellings within existing farm holdings or, for example, the conversion of disused or underused farm buildings for housing, in certain, suitable locations. Annex A of PPS7 advises that one of the circumstances in which isolated residential development may be justified is when accommodation is required to enable agricultural, forestry and certain other full-time workers to live at, or in the immediate vicinity of, their place of work.

Local planning authorities should include appropriate policies in their local plans which will help deliver the amount of housing they need and decide where that housing should be located. It is for them to determine individual planning applications, such as those for the development of new dwellings within existing farm holdings, in accordance with their local plans, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The policies in PPS3 and PPS7 apply to England only. Planning policy in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* whole-time firefighters, *(b)* retained firefighters and *(c)* non-uniformed fire and rescue service staff were employed on 11th September (i) 2001 and (ii) in each subsequent year, broken down by fire authority area. [202135]

Mr. Dhanda: Available information, for the period 2001-02 to 2005-06 (at 31 March in each year), has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Flags

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role her Department plays in *(a)* the process by which counties may establish their own flags and *(b)* the planning permission rules relating to the flying of county flags; and how many counties have established such flags. [200925]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government plays no part in the process by which counties may establish their own flags. Similarly, we hold no records on how many counties have established such flags.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 flags come within the definition of "advertisement". The rules relating to the flying of county flags are to be found in the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007, which came into force on 6 April 2007. Under Class H Schedule 1 of these Regulations certain flags, including those of any English county, may be flown without requiring the express consent of the local authority in whose territory they are being flown, provided that neither the flag nor the flagstaff displays any advertisement or subject matter additional to the design of the flag.

Floods: Local Government Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers parish and town councils have to levy a precept in order to deal with flooding issues. [201800]

John Healey: Section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides powers to parish and town councils to issue a precept to their local billing authority as their budget requirement for the year. A precept must be issued before 1 March in the financial year preceding that for which it is issued.

There is no requirement for the precept to be broken down against specific services provided.

Greenbelt: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1275W, on regional planning and development, in which local authorities has a planning inspector has *(a)* amended a proposed policy on the Green Belt and *(b)* rejected a development plan document as unsound due to the proposed policy on the Green Belt. [202480]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200217]

Mr. Dhanda: My Department does not provide health or social care services, but does provides grant funding for local authorities, through, for example, Formula Grant, which may be used to support local authority social care functions.

There are no plans at present to apply the proposed power in clause 69 of the Health and Social Care Bill, enabling the Care Quality Commission to perform any of its functions in relation to health or social care schemes, to any activities which are within the policy responsibility of my Department.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans the Government have to establish a standard definition for zero-carbon with regards to housing; and if she will make a statement; [201803]

(2) what discussions her Department has had with HM Treasury on defining zero-carbon for the purposes of housing; and if she will make a statement. [201870]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the Building a Greener Future policy statement, published on 23 July 2007, we committed to consulting on the definition of zero carbon homes from 2016. In the 2008 Budget the Government announced that the 2016 definition of a zero carbon home would be set by the end of 2008 following a consultation in the summer.

Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what representations her Department has received on the comparative carbon dioxide emission reductions potentially available from refurbishing existing housing to higher energy efficiency standards and building new zero carbon housing; and if she will make a statement; [201868]

(2) what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the carbon dioxide emissions from refurbishing existing housing to higher energy efficiency standards; and if she will make a statement. [201869]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government anticipate that, in order to meet the long-term carbon reduction target set out in the Climate Change Bill, substantial reductions will be required both from new and existing homes. A number of studies have been undertaken on the potential in each of these. In particular:

In 2007, following analysis published by my Department (http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/reviewsustainability), the Office of Climate Change published its analytical slide pack on household emissions (http://www.occ.gov.uk/publications/index.htm). This estimated that existing policies (including zero carbon homes) would reduce carbon emissions by some 45 million tonnes carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$) per year by 2020 and that there was further potential (not from existing policies) to reduce emissions by some 47.5 $MtCO_2$ per year (including some 11.7 $MtCO_2$ from measures with a payback of seven years or less).

In 2007, following consultation, my Department published the "Building a Greener Future" policy statement (http://www.communities.gov.ukypublications/planningandbuilding/building-a-greener) and accompanying regulatory impact assessment, which estimated that our policies on revising building regulations towards the zero carbon standard will save some 2.7 $MtCO_2$ per year by 2020 and at least 15 $MtCO_2$ per year by 2050. A further consultation on the detailed definition of zero carbon will follow later this year.

Housing: Insulation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of properties in England unsuitable for cavity wall insulation; what proportion of the total housing stock this represents; what reports she has received on the reasons why cavity wall insulation is inappropriate in some circumstances; and what effect such circumstances are likely to have on her Department's ability to meet its targets on improving the energy efficiency of existing housing stock. [201317]

Caroline Flint: The Explanatory Memorandum for the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target includes an estimate of the number of cavity walls in GB that can not be insulated for the following reasons:

High rise blocks of flats.

Cavity width less than 50mm (or less than 40mm) if UF foam is used.

Walls below ground level.

Finlock gutters (unless they have been lined)

Water penetration or rising damp (unless treated)

Timber, steel, concrete or stone walls.

Walls exposed to driving rain (unless the outer leaf is in good condition and appropriate to the locality).

We estimate that there are currently 7.3 million homes in Great Britain with unfilled but fillable wall cavities and around 807,000 homes with unfillable cavities, for the reasons set out above. We estimate that around 2.9 million cavities will be filled under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target.

However, the insulation industry has informed the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) that improvements in technology mean that some of these cavities can now be filled; for example, three of the main insulation companies have installed cavity wall insulation in blocks of flats up to 45m, and CIGA (the cavity wall insulation guarantee agency) has assured DEFRA that cavity wall insulation is regularly retrofitted to homes in areas of driving rain (for example, Cornwall, Shetland and the Hebrides) provided that the external leaf of the building is in good condition. We therefore believe that the figure of 807,000 unfillable cavities in Great Britain is an over-estimate.

Housing: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to increase the supply of affordable housing in *(a)* Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency and *(b)* Lancashire. [194713]

Mr. Iain Wright: The North West has been allocated £837 million for housing over the next three years, an increase of £341 million on the previous spending review period.

Of the £837 million, £526 million is specifically for the provision of affordable housing. The Government are expecting a minimum output of 6,900 homes for social renting and 3,000 units for affordable home ownership. However decisions still have to be made on how best to spend these resources to achieve these aims.

Part of this regional allocation will go towards the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP). The first tranche of the 2008-11 programme was announced on 26 February 2008. £45.3 million will be allocated to Lancashire, and £2.9 million will go to Lancaster, which includes Morecambe in its area. Further allocations will be made later.

In addition, £311 million of the regional allocation will go to local authorities over the next three years, and Lancaster city council has been allocated £1.28 million for 2008-09.

Housing: Planning Permission

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider giving local authorities greater powers within the planning process on decisions to convert family dwelling houses to flats; and if she will make a statement. [201897]

Mr. Iain Wright: In general, the conversion of a dwelling house to flats would involve a material change of use and therefore require planning permission. It would then be for the local authority to determine whether this is appropriate based on their local plans and policies and the need for such housing in the area. It is important for local authorities to strike a balance between the need to make efficient use of land by building at higher densities in accessible locations and making sure that satisfactory living conditions are either maintained or could be achieved.

I have no plans to give local authorities greater powers in relation to planning decisions on the conversion of dwelling houses to flats, as I consider that existing powers are sufficient. It would not be appropriate to restrict generally the opportunities that conversions can bring to overall housing stock, as these are decisions best taken locally after careful consideration of the merits and drawbacks of each particular case.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of how many new dwellings Bournemouth borough council has granted planning permission in each of the last three years. [202330]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government collects quarterly aggregate statistics on the number of planning decisions granted for major and minor developments relating to residential development. We do not collect data on individual planning applications. However, data obtained directly from the borough of Bournemouth show that the authority gave planning permission for the following numbers of dwellings over the past three years.

	Number
2005-06	2,900
2006-07	2,677
2007-08	2,253

The figures exclude any applications granted on appeal. The statistics may also include applications for the same site.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average purchase price of a domestic dwelling was for a first-time buyer in *(a)* England and *(b)* the United Kingdom in the most recent period for which figures are available. [202554]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government calculate monthly mix-adjusted average purchase prices of domestic dwellings bought by first time buyers based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey. This is available for the UK, by country and Government Office region back to February 2002 on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-592

From this table the average mix-adjusted price of a property bought by a first time buyer in February 2008 was £166,101 in England and £160,338 in the UK.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the average purchase price of a domestic dwelling paid by first time buyers. [202649]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government calculate monthly mix-adjusted average purchase prices of domestic dwellings bought by first time buyers based on data from the regulated mortgage survey. This is available for the UK, by country and Government Office region back to February 2002 on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-592

Housing: Standards

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* local authority, *(b)* private rented, *(c)* owner-occupier and *(d)* housing association homes did not reach the decent homes standard in each region in England in each year since 2001. [201652]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* Nationally, the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) is used to monitor house conditions and has been carried out and reported every five years until 2001 and annually from 2003. The survey provides the following national estimates of non-decency for all sectors from 2001 to the latest date available, 2006:

Table 1: Number of non-decent homes by sector, 2001-06

Number (Thousand)

	2001	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Local authorities	1,174	975	816	729	695
Private rented	1,101	1,056	994	1,003	1,055
Owner-occupied	4,316	4,219	4,066	3,822	3,704
Registered social landlords	472	467	437	433	436

Notes:
1. Base = all dwellings.
2. RSL figures are affected by transfers from local authority stock over the period. Figures are based on the old Fitness definition of the Decent Homes Standard.

Source:
English House Condition Survey.

The EHCS cannot provide robust regional figures for each tenure on an annual basis. However, the following regional aggregates for local authorities (LAs) and registered social landlords (RSLs) have been reported by local authorities in their Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) returns and by housing associations in the Housing Corporation's Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR):

Table 2: Number of local authority non-decent homes 2002-07[1]

Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	117,000	112,000	100,000	94,000	91,000	76,000
Yorkshire and Humber	145,000	190,000	188,000	142,000	113,000	96,000
East Midland	80,000	83,000	67,000	60,000	54,000	46,000
East of England	77,000	71,000	64,000	56,000	40,000	39,000
London	280,000	264,000	241,000	215,000	174,000	152,000
South East	84,000	75,000	81,000	68,000	59,000	49,000
South West	54,000	52,000	49,000	40,000	35,000	27,000
West Midland	169,000	134,000	111,000	108,000	91,000	79,000
North West	174,000	146,000	118,000	103,000	78,000	63,000

[1] Rounded to nearest thousand.

Notes:
1. The BPSA started collecting data on non-decency for the period 2001-02.
2. Non-decent stock reported by local authorities is a snapshot figure as at 1 April each year. 3. The data are based on actual reporting and there is no imputation to account for missing values.

Source:
Business Plan Statistical Appendix.

Table 3: Number of RSL non-decent homes 2005-07

Region	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	23,031	16,693	14,600
Yorkshire and Humber	52,460	38,224	37,255
East Midland	11,875	10,477	10,152
East of England	25,452	24,490	22,482
London	48,521	48,564	36,736
South East	37,924	30,478	24,538
South West	27,793	25,011	22,905
West Midland	45,347	35,447	22,056
North West	70,056	67,371	63,499

Note:
2005 was the first year in which data were collected by local authority enabling regional breakdowns.

Source:
Housing Corporation's Regulatory Statistical Return.

Index of Deprivation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library copies of the original datasets used to calculate the geographical barriers sub-domain in the English Indices of Deprivation 2007, including data for each lower layer super output area for *(a)* road distance to a GP surgery, *(b)* road distance to a general store or supermarket, *(c)* road distance to a primary school and *(d)* road distance to a post office or sub post office; [202620]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the dataset of difficulty of access to owner-occupation used to compile the Index of Deprivation 2007, including data for each lower layer super output area. [202466]

John Healey: The Department is seeking the relevant permissions to enable us to publish the underlying indicators of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 at Lower Super Output Area level, including those in the geographical barriers sub-domain. I will place a copy of these indicators in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes were made to the methodology of the Index of Deprivation in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2007 in relation to the manner in which the geographical barriers sub-domain was calculated. [202629]

John Healey: The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 (IMD 2000) is a ward level measure of multiple deprivation. For the geographical access sub-domain, average distance travelled to each service was calculated as the average distance that claimants in a particular ward would have to travel to that service, as the crow flies. The distances to post offices, doctors' surgeries and food shops were computed for claimants of means tested out-of-work benefits, while the distance to primary schools was computed for all children aged 5 to 8.

The same four indicators were used in the IMD 2004 and 2007. However both these indices are based on Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) geography, rather than ward geography. The measurement of distance changed from ;as the crow flies' to measuring road distance, to each service. The distances were measured to the nearest 10 metres. In 2004 and 2007 distance was measured for all people rather than just for people claiming out-of-work benefits. In the case of primary schools, the population used is the relevant child population.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice her Department has received from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on the number of cases which would have been reported or determined by PINS, which are likely to be dealt with by the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [201551]

Mr. Iain Wright: The advice that the Planning Inspectorate has given to the Department is that fewer than 10 cases per year that are or would have been dealt with by the Inspectorate would be handled by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) on the basis of the definitions contained in the Bill. This is consistent with departmental statements that it would only be a handful of cases that would pass from the Inspectorate to the IPC.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average number of planning applications which will be considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission each year. [202465]

John Healey: The Planning Bill Impact Assessment, published in November 2007, estimated that the Infrastructure Planning Commission would consider around 45 major infrastructure projects a year. In addition, the May 2007 Planning White Paper made clear that there would also be a larger number of less complex cases, such as works necessary to ensure the operational effectiveness and resilience of the electricity transmission and distribution network.

Local Authorities: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has given local authorities guidance on carbon offsetting. [202653]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government has not given advice to local authorities on carbon offsetting. However, in January 2007, DEFRA wrote to local authorities to inform them of the work it has been doing to develop a voluntary code of practice for offsetting. Government are continuing to develop this work, in the form of a voluntary quality assurance scheme.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the equalisation formula for local government funding in England since May 1997. [202627]

John Healey: The method of calculation of formula grant is detailed in the Local Government Finance Report (England) for each financial year. The Local Government Finance Report (England) for each year has been placed in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Consent Regimes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 586W, on local government: consent regimes, how many *(a)* listed building consents made by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), *(b)* Conservation Area Consents, *(c)* less than best price disposals, *(d)* allotments disposals and *(e)* LPA TPO consents were considered by the Government Office for London in the last year for which figures are available. [189234]

Mr. Dhanda: Details for the financial year 2006-07 are detailed as follows:

	Number
Listed Building Consents (LPA)	143 (including 2 withdrawn cases)
Conservation Area Consents	3
Less Than Best Price	3 (including 1 withdrawn case)
Allotments Disposals	2

For the current financial year up to and including 22 February the figures are as follows:

	Number
Listed Building Consents (LPA)	119 (including 2 withdrawn cases)
Conservation Area Consents	4
Less Than Best Price	3 (including 1 withdrawn case)
Allotments Disposals	4

The requirement to apply to the Secretary of State under LPA Tree Preservation Order (TPO) consents was repealed on 2 August 1999. However, there were 123 TPO Appeals (including 30 withdrawn) decided in the financial year 2006-07 and there have been 86 (including 28 withdrawals) decided in the current financial year up to and including 22 February.

Mayor of London: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Office for London has issued on the Mayor of London's new powers to grant and refuse planning permission. [202611]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008 sets out which planning applications must be referred to the Mayor, the process for considering them and the test the Mayor must apply to decide whether his intervention would be justified.

GOL Circular 1/2008 is the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's guidance on the arrangements for strategic planning in London. Section 5 of the circular explains how the Mayor's powers over planning applications will operate.

The Mayor's new powers over planning applications came into force on 6 April 2008. Both the Order and Circular are available on the Government Office for London website (link below):

http://www.gol.gov.uk/gol/Planning/624901/?a=42496

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the function and purpose is of business rates buoyancy factor allowance. [202604]

John Healey: The purpose of the "buoyancy factor" is to adjust the gross provisional revenue contribution by local authorities to the non-domestic pool to take account of additions and removals of properties from the local authority's lists and the impact of appeals which will impact on the overall rateable value of the local authority's list.

Non-Domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce in England a scheme with similar structure and objectives to the Northern Ireland scheme of business rate relief for automatic telling machines in rural areas. [202615]

John Healey: There are no plans to introduce a mandatory rate relief for automatic telling machines in rural areas. However, the existing rural rate relief allows local authorities to grant up to 100 per cent. discretionary relief to a hereditament in a rural settlement with a rateable value of up to 14,000, where they judge that the business is of benefit to the community.

Planning Permission

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning requirements and processes apply to proposals for *(a)* new urban development and *(b)* eco-towns. [202307]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* All planning applications for new urban development are determined in accordance with the development plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise. This is also the case for eco-towns and the planning process is set out in the recently published consultation document—"Eco-towns—Living a greener future". Copies of the document are available in the House Library.

Planning Permission: Consultation Papers

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the consultation on revisions to Planning Policy Statement 6. [198804]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* We intend to publish the consultation on revisions to Planning Policy Statement 6 in the summer.

Planning: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department provides to planning authorities on the potential for excess water to flood neighbouring properties following the displacement of water by new developments. [201576]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk, sets out the Government's policy for managing flood risk, including that from surface water. It requires local planning authorities to prepare strategic flood risk assessments in consultation with the Environment Agency, which should form the basis for preparing appropriate policies for flood risk management in those areas. Planning applications for development on sites of 1 hectare or greater in areas with low probability of flooding and all proposals in areas with medium and high probability of flooding should be accompanied by a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment. This will identify and assess the risks from all forms of flooding to and from the development, and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, so that the development will be safe and will not increase flood risk elsewhere. Annex F of the PPS specifically deals with the management of surface water.

Quarrying: Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 49-50W, on quarrying: public participation, which local authorities have submitted minerals development plan documents for examination. [195908]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following local authorities have submitted minerals development plan documents for examination:

Hampshire county council joint with New Forest National Park, Portsmouth and Southampton on 31 May 2006;

Shropshire county council (two Minerals Development Plan Documents) on 27 October 2006;

Kent county council (three Minerals Development Plan Documents) on 29 November 2006;

Suffolk county council on 22 July 2007;

Lancashire county council joint with Blackburn and Darwen and Blackpool on 30 November 2007;

Wiltshire county council joint with Swindon on 26 March 2008; and

North Yorkshire county council on 22 of January 2008.

The minerals development plan documents for Kent and Shropshire were withdrawn following submission.

Regional Development Agencies: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities will be represented on the proposed leaders' fora for scrutiny of regional development agencies. [202556]

Mr. Dhanda: On 31 March 2008, the Government published "Prosperous Places: Taking forward the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration". This document states that the Government believe that local authorities should decide the most effective structure for a leaders' forum and that it expects that this will differ between regions. However, each forum should be streamlined, manageable and representative of local government across the region. The consultation seeks views on this proposal and on whether the Government should take powers to intervene if local authorities were unable to reach consensus on a forum that met the criteria set out above or a forum failed to operate effectively.

Regional Planning and Development: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether new integrated regional strategies will require the agreement of local authorities to be adopted. [202598]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our consultation document "Prosperous Places: Taking forward the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration", which was published on 31 March, proposes that local authorities would be involved in signing off the draft strategy before the RDA submits it to Ministers for approval. The consultation seeks views on this proposal.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from the Environment Agency about the South West Regional Spatial Strategy; which parts of the Strategy the Environment Agency has objected to; and if she will make a statement. [261564]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* The Environment Agency were consulted on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy in the summer of 2006. In their response the Agency supported the sustainable construction, green infrastructure, renewable energy, waste and overarching sustainable development policies. The Agency also:

sought further amendments to the policies on flood risk, renewable energy and sustainable development;

advised that the relevant water companies should be consulted with regard to the capacity for accommodating increased sewage flows in Cheltenham, Salisbury, Truro and Swindon and also water supply with regard to the latter;

raised issues of flood risk in the Plymouth and west of England sub-regions and nature conservation issues in south east Dorset;

objected to the policy on airports;

suggested amendments to the text on climate change and CO_2 emissions and the relationship between future growth and infrastructure provision.

The panel appointed to undertake the examination in public (EiP) of the draft RSS considered all of the submitted representations. In drawing up the matters and timetable the panel invited the Environment Agency to participate in further discussions.

Regional Planning and Development: Standards

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has produced on the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum length of the consultation period for each stage of regional spatial strategies. [201878]

Mr. Iain Wright: Two rounds of public consultation take place during the revision of a regional spatial strategy (RSS):

public consultation on Draft RSS, 12 weeks minimum;

public consultation of Secretary of State's Proposed Changes, eight weeks minimum.

Government guidance does not set a maximum period for public consultation at the Draft RSS or at the Secretary of State's proposed changes stage.

Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed development in the Thames Gateway area entails building on green belt land. [194998]

Caroline Flint: There are no proposals in the East of England or South East Regional Spatial Strategies for amending Green Belt boundaries in the Thames Gateway area. Any planning applications for development on Green Belt land must satisfy the national planning policies on Green Belts set out in

Planning Policy Guidance note 2. Under this policy, strict planning controls in Green Belt land are in place and there remains a general presumption against inappropriate development within Green Belts. As we reaffirmed in last year's Planning White Paper, the Government have no intention of making fundamental changes to this policy.

I would also point out that one of the reasons land may be included in the Green Belt is to assist in the urban regeneration of urban land, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other land. The opportunities for urban regeneration in the Thames Gateway are recognised in the Government's investment programme for the area.

Small Businesses: Tax Allowances

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the number of businesses eligible for small business rate relief in each financial year since April 2005; and how many of these claimed the relief in each year; [201472]

(2) how much was claimed in small business rate relief by *(a)* small businesses and *(b)* post offices in each financial year since April 2005; [201473]

(3) how many post offices claimed small business rate relief in each financial year since April 2005; and what the value of relief claimed by each post office branch was in each year. [201474]

John Healey: Local authorities reported there were 392,000 businesses in England in receipt of small business rate relief as at 31 December 2006, the only year for which this information is currently available. Information on the number of businesses who are eligible for small business rate relief is not available.

Details of the total relief granted since 2005-06 are given, in millions, in the following table:

	£ million
2005-06	202
2006-07	237
2007-08	235

Data for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are outturn figures while the figure for 2007-08 is a forecast.

It is not possible to say how many post offices claim small business rate relief or the value of the relief granted as we do not collect data on the type of business claiming small business rate relief or the value.

Stamp Duty: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 1223W, on stamp duties: tax allowances, how many transactions claimed stamp duty tax relief for new zero carbon homes in March 2008. [202517]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Of those transactions for which a stamp duty land tax certificate was issued in March 2008, one transaction claimed the stamp duty land tax relief for new zero-carbon homes.

The tax relief will help kick-start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of microgeneration, and sets a gold standard for green homes.

We expect the numbers of qualifying transactions to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief go on the market. For example, in December 2007 the Government announced details of 200 new homes to be built to a zero-carbon standard in Hanham Hall, near Bristol. The media release can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/611694

The Government are committed to conducting an interim review of the relief in 2010 which will examine the effectiveness of the relief in stimulating the innovation necessary to ensure that all new homes are built to a zero-carbon standard from 2016.

Valuation Tribunal Service: Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Tribunal Service's business rates manual. [202584]

John Healey: The Valuation Tribunal Service does not have a Business Rates Manual.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Climate Change

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has offered to Bangladesh to *(a)* promote the development of greener technologies, *(b)* counter the impact of climate change and *(c)* prevent flooding. [199156]

Mr. Malik: We are helping the Government of Bangladesh to develop its national climate change strategy and action plan and we provide support to the comprehensive disaster management programme, which includes disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation. On flood adaptation, we support a 50 million programme which assists poor people to cope with severe floods by raising homesteads. In response to the direct needs from last year's floods and cyclone, we have provided £15 million as disaster relief and early recovery activities to Bangladesh.

We have recently committed £30 million to climate change adaptation. The programme will protect around £10 million poor and vulnerable people against climate change related disasters such as flood, drought, tidal surges and cyclones. The climate change programme will facilitate access for Bangladesh to major global funds, such as the environmental transformation fund and the multi-billion-dollar global environmental facility. These funds support low-carbon development initiatives through adaptation of greener technologies.

Bangladesh: Energy

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the potential for greener energy generation in Bangladesh. [199157]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not carried out any overall assessment in Bangladesh of the potential for greener energy generation.

However, the Government of Bangladesh, through support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has made assessments on solar, wind, biogas and micro-hydro potentials.

The World Bank has also carried out assessments on renewable energy and currently supports solar panels in several thousand villages through Grameen Bank's "Shakti" branch. Germany, Japan and France are also funding various renewable energy and technology transfer projects in Bangladesh.

Burma: Ethnic Groups

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to *(a)* provide humanitarian assistance to internally-displaced people and *(b)* alleviate the humanitarian situation in Karenni state. [200344]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) funds humanitarian assistance to people in Karenni state through:

the UN Development Programme's Human Development Initiative to improve the livelihoods of poor families in rural areas;

the Three Diseases Fund which supports the work of CARE, World Vision, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation in fighting HIV, TB and malaria in Karenni State;

the Thailand-Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) which allocates part of its funding to assistance for internally displaced people inside Karenni State; and

local faith based organisations which are able to reach internally displaced people in Karenni state from inside Burma.

DFID funding for TBBC is also used to provide assistance for people from Karenni state who are living as refugees in Thailand.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based. [200706]

Gillian Merron: Staff employed by the Department for International Development (DFID) are members of one of the five principal civil service pensions schemes and as such DFID cannot identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of these schemes.

Information on unfunded liabilities can be found in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation:

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91. [200707]

Gillian Merron: Information on unfunded liabilities in present value terms of the Civil Service pensions schemes can be found in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation at

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk.

This information is only available since 2000-01 and has been produced under differing sets of assumptions (e.g. on longevity) since 1990 and as such is not comparable during the period in question.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be from increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200709]

Gillian Merron: Staff employed by the Department for International Development (DFID) are members of one of the five principal civil service pension schemes. Only the Partnership scheme offers the possibility of DFID increasing its expenditure as a result of an increase in employee contributions. In the Partnership scheme DFID matches member contributions up to 3 per cent. of pensionable earnings. Currently 25 DFID staff are members of the Partnership scheme and have varying contribution levels. A 1 per cent. increase will have a very minimal increase to DFID's overall expenditure.

Departmental Public Opinion

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200009]

Gillian Merron: The various services provided by polling companies in financial year 2007-08 were as follows:

Company	*Piece of work*	*Date*
Solutions Strategy Research	Qualitative research into ethical shopping	April to June 2007
Taylor Nelson Sofres RSGB	Questions on omnibus survey to provide interim measure on concern about global poverty among UK adults	June 2007
Taylor Nelson Sofres	Annual attitudinal tracking survey into public perceptions of global poverty	July 2007
ICM	Quantitative research to measure UK adults' interest in shopping ethically.	November 2007
Creative Research	Qualitative stage of audience segmentation research	January to February 2008

Company	Piece of work	Date
Taylor Nelson Sofres RSGB	Quantitative research (questions on omnibus survey) to measure UK adults interest in shopping ethically for Valentines Day	February 2008
Ipsos MORI	Quantitative stage of audience segmentation research	March to May 2008
GfK NOP	Annual survey of young people's attitudes towards global poverty and development issues	March to June 2008

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to ask other countries to increase funding to combat HIV/AIDS in developing countries. [201943]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are pushing G8 colleagues to ensure that fulfilling and implementing previous summit commitments is a priority at the G8 Leaders' Summit in July this year. In 2007, the G8 committed to scale up their efforts to achieve Universal Access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including providing with other donors a projected $60 billion over the coming years. The UK will be pressing G8 and other colleagues to contribute their share towards the goal of Universal Access.

The UK Government announced an unprecedented long-term commitment of £1 billion for the Global Fund for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (GFATM) to 2015 at the GFATM replenishment conference in September 2007 and encouraged other governments and agencies to consider committing long-term, predictable financing. At this conference, international donors pledged a total of around $6.3 billion for the three-year period to 2010. The Global Fund Secretariat estimates that a further $3.4 billion has been pledged since then, making a total of $9.7 billion.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries the head of his Department's field office acts as the senior UK representative for diplomatic purposes. [200904]

Gillian Merron: None of the Department for International Development's (DFID) heads of overseas offices act as the senior UK representative for diplomatic purposes in their respective countries.

Gaza: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of unplanned financial expenditure incurred by his Department and its implementing agencies in providing assistance to Gaza since the imposition of access restrictions from June 2007. [202316]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides its humanitarian assistance through partner agencies such as the UN Relief Works Agency and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The UK also makes a substantial contribution to the World Food Programme's central budget. For these implementing agencies, the partial closure of Gaza's crossings has significantly increased the time and costs involved in importing humanitarian supplies into Gaza. Verified estimates are unavailable, although the World Food Programme has calculated that additional costs created by Israel's food clearance procedures will reach $6 million over the two years from September 2007 to August 2009. As the situation deteriorates, we expect these costs to rise.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Government or their implementing agencies have faced delays in importing humanitarian items into Gaza in the last 12 months. [202317]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Movement and access restrictions are constricting the flow of urgent humanitarian goods and staff, as well as increasing the cost of humanitarian transfers. The frequency and size of those transfers that do make it into Gaza are insufficient to meet the humanitarian needs of the population.

The UK continues its diplomatic efforts to ease the situation and we condemn the violence from both sides. DFID is considering support for a UN access cell to facilitate the access of humanitarian staff and goods through the crossing.

River Nile: Climate Change

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* funded on (i) the likely effects of climate change on water levels in the River Nile and (ii) the likely consequences of such changes on the region. [201316]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has commissioned no research directly on the impact of climate change on water levels in the Nile and the likely consequences on the region. However, we support the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), a partnership of nine of the 10 countries that share the Nile, which seeks to ensure that the water resources of the Nile are equitably and sustainably managed. The NBI is looking at climate change as part of broader work to predict variations in water availability and the potential of that variability on the region.

The NBI is supported by a number of donors and DFID has contributed £14 million to this programme since 2004.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Public Order Offences

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for failing to comply with a request

from police (i) not to consume alcohol in an alcohol consumption designated public place and (ii) for failing to surrender alcohol in their possession in each of the last 10 years. [191314]

Mr. Coaker: The number of persons issued with a caution, penalty notice for disorder (PND), and proceeded against at magistrates courts for failing to comply with a request from police not to consume alcohol in an alcohol consumption designated public place, and for failing to surrender alcohol in their possession in England and Wales for 2006 can be viewed in the following tables.

Number of persons issued with a caution, and proceeded against at magistrates courts for certain alcohol offences in England and Wales for the year 2006[1,2,3]

	2006	
Offence description	*Proceeded against*	*Cautions[4]*
Failure to comply with a requirement by a constable re: the consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	101	13

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Failure to comply with a requirement by a constable re: the consumption of alcohol in a designated public place Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001S.12(2)(a) and (4)
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings.
Reprimands and final warnings are included in the above data.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence Consumption of alcohol in public place in England and Wales for the year 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Consumption of alcohol in public place
2006	1,061

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statute:
Consume alcohol in designated public place, contrary to requirement by constable not to do so. S.12 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
[3] The above PND offence also covers the offence Fail to surrender intoxicating liquor to constable
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* on premises and *(b)* off premises licences were (i) suspended and (ii) revoked for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in each of the last five years, broken down by police area. [197363]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not held centrally.

Prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 which came into force on 25 November 2005, data on the number of liquor licences issued under the Licensing Act 1964 (the 1964 Act) in England and Wales were collected by petty sessional divisions (magistrates courts areas), on a three yearly basis. The previous set of data relating to the 1964 Act covered the triennial renewal process when 273 on-licensed and 81 off-licensed premises had their licences revoked in England and Wales between July 2003 and June 2004. These data do not indicate the reason for revocation which could include premises having simply ceased trading. These data are not available broken down by police area.

The first DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, was published on 8 November 2007. This shows that, between April 2006 and March 2007, there were 675 completed reviews which resulted in 92 licences being revoked and 91 being suspended (based upon a 85 per cent. response rate from licensing authorities). The data do not indicate the reason for revocation or suspension, nor by type of licensed premises. Licences may be revoked on review for one or more reasons relating to the four licensing objectives, including sales of alcohol to children.

There were also 37 personal licences revoked, suspended or declared forfeit by the courts in 2006-07 (80 per cent. response rate). The loss of personal licence could relate to conviction for any one of a number of relevant offences, including the sale of alcohol to children.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used to determine which of the four categories of suffering set out in the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 specific scientific procedures come under. [201454]

Meg Hillier: The criteria used to assign severity limits to regulated procedures are set out in paragraphs 5.40 to 5.42 of the Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321). Copies of the guidance have been placed in the House Library.

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who absconded while subject to a control order under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 have since been located. [200921]

Jacqui Smith: In relation to the total number of individuals who absconded while subject to a control order that have been located, I would refer the right hon. Gentleman to written ministerial statements in relation to control orders published on 11 December

2006, 16 January 2007, 22 March 2007, 24 May 2007, 21 June 2007, 17 September 2007, 12 December 2007 and 10 March 2008. These statements give as much information as we can provide about the individuals concerned given the national security sensitivities of these cases and the need to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual who is subject to an anonymity order.

Asylum

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of failed asylum seekers in the UK. [200546]

Jacqui Smith: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994, no Government has been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and that includes failed asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a very wide ranging programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Asylum: Children

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the report of the Children's Commissioner, published on 3 March 2008, insofar as it relates to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; whether she plans to take steps to address such issues; and if she will make a statement. [197487]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The UK Border Agency is carefully considering the report and, before responding formally to each of the recommendations, has met representatives of the Children's Commissioner on 3 April. Work to improve the arrangements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children has already addressed a number of the report's recommendations.

BAE Systems

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what requests the Government have received from the US Department of Justice to assist in its investigation into BAe Systems; and if she will make a statement; [198012]

(2) what provisions have been made by the Government to assist the US Department of Justice in its investigation into BAe Systems; and if she will make a statement. [198013]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided on this matter. I can confirm that the Home Office has received a request for assistance from the USA in respect of corruption allegations concerning BAE Systems. The request is being dealt with in accordance with the bi-lateral treaty on mutual legal assistance between the UK and the USA. It would be inappropriate to comment further.

Border and Immigration Agency: Finance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the UK Border Agency is for each of the next three years; how much has been spent on its establishment; and what criteria she proposes to use to assess its effectiveness. [199148]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency was established in shadow form on 1 April 2008. The 2008-09 budget is detailed in the Business plan with total spend of £2,059 million. This budget excludes the transfer from HMRC which is not yet finalised. Future year budgets are not yet finalised.

Targets and milestones for the UKBA for the period 2008-11 are set out in the agency's business plan which was published earlier this month.

Border and Immigration Agency: Manpower

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* immigration officers are to be employed in the UK Border Agency in 2008-09. [199147]

Jacqui Smith: The number of staff employed by the former Borders and Immigration Agency was 18,246 at the end of February 2008. On 1 April 2008, 2,303 staff transferred from. UK Visas. More than 4,000 further staff are expected to join UKBA from HM Revenue and Customs and the final staff total is expected to be around 25,000.

British Nationality: Armed Forces

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-British citizens who served with British services in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* other military campaigns have subsequently (i) applied for British citizenship, (ii) been granted and (iii) not been granted British citizenship. [197284]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available, as the details requested are not supplied by the applicant when making an application for British citizenship.

Cannabis

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what types of cannabis were seized by police in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the percentage of cannabis seized which was skunk, home grown or sinsemilla in each year. [200037]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office collects and publishes figures on seizures by the police in England and Wales of cannabis (herbal), cannabis resin and cannabis plants. Figures for the years 2001 to 2005 (the most recent published period) are shown in the following table.

The Home Office has undertaken a project to identify the market share of sinsemilla to other forms of cannabis (resin and traditional imported cannabis products) and their respective mean tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabinoid (CBD) content. The findings of this project, which have been shared with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs as part of its review of the classification of cannabis, will be published in due course. However, an early finding from samples submitted over a three month period in 2007-08 by a number of police forces in England and Wales suggests that sinsemilla accounts for 80 per cent. of the market share of police seizures.

Number and quantity of police[1] seizures of cannabis by type[2], England and Wales, 2001-05

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005[5]*
Number of seizures					
Cannabis (herbal)	28,532	36,911	32,858	38,595	69,766
Cannabis plants	1,711	2,199	2,680	2,780	4,098
Cannabis resin	46,626	44,662	40,976	32,727	38,572
Total cannabis[3]	73,220	74,250	79,600	74,613	111,212
Quantity of seizures (weighed)[4]					
Cannabis (herbal) (kg)	7,183	3,823	13,909	2,789	12,905
Cannabis resin (kg)	20,011	8,657	27,861	21,676	25,045
Quantity of seizures (unweighted)					
Cannabis plants (plants)	67,679	52,118	80,498	88,674	208,357

[1] Includes seizures by the National Crime Squad, but not joint operations with HM Revenue and Customs.
[2] Categorisation of drug type broadly follows the lists scheduled in the Misuse of Drugs Acts.
[3] The totals are lower than the sum of the constituent parts, as some seizures contain more than one drug type.
[4] These drug types have been converted from other units using standard conversion factors. These factors were revised in 2005, so 2005 weighed quantities should not be compared with those for previous years.
[5] Increases in cannabis seizures in 2005 are thought to be associated with the introduction of cannabis warnings on 1 April 2004.

Community Policing: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on neighbourhood policing in North Yorkshire. [201223]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office is not aware of any recent representations made on neighbourhood policing in North Yorkshire specifically. However, neighbourhood policing has now been successfully rolled out across North Yorkshire with 45 dedicated teams providing visible and accessible local policing.

Crimes of Violence

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Bosworth constituency in each of the last five years. [202660]

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person have been recorded in each constituency in Sussex in each of the last five years. [202671]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Disabled

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many disability hate crimes were recorded in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [200405]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* The Home Office is responsible for the police recorded statistics. Statistics are collected on the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences but no information is available on those offences which are specifically 'disability hate' crimes.

Crimes of Violence: Mentally Ill

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were committed by people undergoing treatment by out-patient psychiatric services in each of the last five years. [200913]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of her Departmental website. [200146]

Mr. Byrne: The most recent redevelopment/redesign of the Home Office website was in 2005. Costs were embedded in the business as usual costs for that year and could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by her Department since May 1997. [198295]

Jacqui Smith: Legislative provisions creating criminal offences are sometimes amended or repealed and re-enacted in modified form, to reflect changes in the law, or to restate the law more conveniently, without significantly altering the underlying legal rule. There are examples of this in legislation passed since May 1997 for which the Home Office retains responsibility, but no examples have been found of criminal offences which have been completely abolished.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what new criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by her Department since July 2007. [198315]

Jacqui Smith: New criminal offences were created in the following provisions of primary legislation sponsored by the Home Office since July 2007:

UK Borders Act 2007

Absconding from detention (section 3)

Assaulting an immigration officer (section 22)

Wrongful disclosure (section 42)

Serious Crime Act 2007

Failing to comply with serious crime prevention order (section 25)

Intentionally encouraging or assisting an offence (section 44)

Encouraging or assisting an offence believing it will be committed (section 45)

Encouraging or assisting offences believing one or more will be committed (section 46)

Offences in relation to disclosures of information (section 69)

Supplementary provision in relation to new powers (section 81)

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [199029]

Mr. Byrne: In the fiscal year 2007-08, the Home Office spent £8,143,961 on advertising and £1,195,743 on publicity. This expenditure covered public facing campaigns on kerb crawling, alcohol harm reduction, mobile phone theft, passport authentication by interview, Frank drugs campaign, immigration, crime reduction advice and community safety.

Departmental Pay

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department were paid gross remuneration of *(a)* between £50,000 and £75,000, *(b)* between £75,001 and £100,000, *(c)* between £100,001 and £125,000, *(d)* between £125,001 and £150,000, *(e)* between £150,001 and £175,000, *(f)* between £175,001 and £200,000 and *(g)* in excess of £200,000 in each of the last five years. [187248]

Jacqui Smith: Information about the remuneration of senior civil servants in the Home Office is published in the annual departmental report which is available on the Home Office's website. Copies of the report for previous years are available in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which her Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based; [200741]

(2) what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which her Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91; [200742]

(3) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which her Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if she will make a statement; [200743]

(4) what the effect on her Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which her Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if she will make a statement. [200744]

Mr. McNulty: Individual police authorities rather than the Home Office are required to account for police pension liabilities. Each authority's liability along with details of certain assumptions used in the calculation of the liability are published by each authority in its annual accounts. Data from those accounts are compiled each year by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These are available either for purchase or via subscription on the CIPF website,

www.cipfa.org.uk.

The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has estimated the unfunded liability of the police pension scheme in England and Wales to have been £70 billion as at 31 March 2006, based on data from police authorities' published resource accounts. This is part of the figure of £650 billion discussed in box 4.3 of the Long-Term Public Finance Report published in March 2008 and available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/A/E/bud08_longterm_586.pdf.

The discount rates used are also discussed there, but the longevity assumptions used have not generally been disclosed by police authorities.

The earliest comparable estimates of the unfunded liability of the police pension scheme are in the note placed in Library by my right hon. Friend the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 2 March 2006, which gave combined UK wide figures for the police and fire service pension schemes of £64 billion as at 31 March 2004 and £85 billion as at 31 March 2005, based on data from police and fire authorities' published resource accounts. The note is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4/A/foi_publicservicepensions260406.pdf.

The discount rates used are discussed in that note, but the longevity assumptions used have not generally been disclosed by police authorities. No breakdown of those figures is readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Although we have previously provided some estimates of the police pension scheme's

unfunded liability prior to 2004, they were not based on data from police authorities' published resource accounts, and so are not comparable with the aforementioned figures.

There were no employer contributions for police pensions for the years prior to 2006-07 since until this point police authorities had to meet the cost of pensions in payment out of their operating accounts. However, the system for financing police pensions changed on 1 April 2006. Police authorities now have a separate pensions account, into which they pay officers' contributions and a new employer's contribution. Any shortfall in an authority's pensions account each year is topped up with a grant from central Government; any surplus is recouped. The employer contribution rate is a combined one for both the Police Pension Scheme 1987 (PPS) and the New Police Pension Scheme 2006 (NPPS). In 2006-07 and 2007-08, the employer contribution rate was 24.6 per cent. of each officer's average pensionable pay, and was reduced to 24.2 per cent. with effect from 1 April 2008. Returns from individual authorities show a total employer contribution cost of £1.108 billion for 2006-07 based on forces' unaudited accounts, and £1.151 billion for 2007-08 based on forces' estimates.

The employee contribution rate for the PPS is currently 11 per cent. of pensionable pay, and 9.5 per cent. for the NPPS. The annual saving from increasing these rates for police officers in England and Wales would be £47 million, based on 1 per cent. of the estimated annual pensionable payroll in 2007-08. Such a change would, in isolation, reduce the call made by police forces on the central Government top-up grant, although this may differ if other changes were introduced at the same time.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which programmes funded by her Department have experienced a real terms reduction in their annual budget for the 2007-08 financial year; and what the budget was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 in each case. [200491]

Mr. McNulty: Budgets reflect internal allocations for both capital and resource expenditure within departmental expenditure limits. For consistency, budgets are stated at their opening position in each year.

Home Office budget plans are reviewed on a regular basis in response to the changing nature of the Department's business. For the financial year 2007-08, security and counter-terrorism, crime and policing, and identity and passports programmes received increased resources.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*Nominal percentage change*
Counter terrorism and intelligence	564	770	37
Crime and policing	6,667	6,849	3
Identity and Passport Service	99	130	3

The costs of the UK Border Agency borne by the taxpayer were reduced in real terms as a result of increases in the level of income generated by managed migration activities. As a result, the Home Office increased its gross expenditure on borders and immigration in 2007-08 compared to 2006-07.

Departmental Renewable Energy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by her Department from renewable sources in each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06. [200496]

Mr. Byrne: Renewable electricity was first purchased by my Department in 2000-01 and the figures up to and including 2005-06, are given in the following table. We do not currently use any other forms of renewable energy.

	kWh renewable electricity purchased
2005-06	65,502,271
2004-05	62,505,257
2003-04	58,067,730
2002-03	53,827,816
2001-02	24,962,370
2000-01	4,628,468
1999-2000	0
1998-99	0
1997-98	0

Departmental Sustainable Development

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [200484]

Mr. Byrne: In order to meet the requirements of the sustainable operations in Government targets, a new sustainable operations policy statement has been prepared and will be issued in the next few months following approval by the relevant Home Office boards.

Deportation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of memoranda of understanding signed with *(a)* Libya, *(b)* Algeria and *(c)* Jordan. [200508]

Jacqui Smith: The UK has Memoranda of Understanding with Libya, Jordan and Lebanon which make provision for the protection of the human rights of, and set out the arrangements for seeking further assurances in respect of, people facing deportation to those countries. We do not have a Memorandum of Understanding with Algeria on this subject. Separate arrangements for seeking assurances in individual cases apply.

In the light of the recent ruling by the Court of Appeal in the case of two Libyan nationals, AS and

DD, we have decided to discontinue deportation action in those cases, and in the cases of 10 other Libyan nationals.

We are seeking leave to appeal to the House of Lords against the Court of Appeal's ruling in the case of Abu Qatada, who is a Jordanian national.

Eight people have been deported to Algeria under the arrangements with that country after withdrawing their appeals against the decision to deport them, and I am satisfied with the way these arrangements are operating.

I remain of the view that diplomatic assurances in the context of deportation are a legitimate means of safeguarding the human rights of the individuals concerned, and contribute to the process of assessing whether or not to seek to deport particular individuals to those countries.

Detection Rates

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate in *(a)* each police force and *(b)* England and Wales was in each year since 1997. [200476]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table.

The non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Detection rates for all recorded offences by police force area, 1997 to 2006-07

Police force area	*1997*	*1998-99*[1]	*1999-2000*[2]	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	26	24	22	21	14	15	15	17	23	24
Bedfordshire	35	33	25	27	25	26	23	28	25	22
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15	16	17	20	24
Cambridgeshire	27	29	25	24	22	22	23	23	27	25
Cheshire	36	37	31	30	26	26	27	26	27	27
Cleveland	25	23	22	21	20	23	21	24	30	31
Cumbria	40	44	39	34	32	31	32	30	35	36
Derbyshire	25	31	28	26	25	26	25	28	27	26
Devon and Cornwall	32	36	35	34	32	29	29	30	28	27
Dorset	29	31	26	25	27	25	26	28	30	30
Durham	31	33	32	34	33	34	29	29	27	30
Dyfed-Powys	61	69	65	63	64	68	47	43	45	45
Essex	27	29	30	26	26	27	28	27	31	33
Gloucestershire	24	31	31	32	30	29	28	27	32	33
Greater Manchester	20	25	23	22	21	22	22	23	25	25
Gwent	51	55	53	57	55	48	45	42	36	33
Hampshire	30	35	32	29	29	30	27	28	24	23
Hertfordshire	32	34	27	24	24	23	25	29	26	29
Humberside	20	22	19	21	20	20	19	20	23	25
Kent	31	34	33	28	28	28	25	23	26	26
Lancashire	29	34	29	27	26	27	27	30	32	35
Leicestershire	34	34	30	28	28	27	22	25	30	28
Lincolnshire	48	40	28	25	27	23	22	25	26	28
London, City of	26	33	32	27	34	36	33	36	43	39
Merseyside	31	31	26	28	24	25	27	30	28	29
Metropolitan Police	26	22	16	15	14	14	15	21	24	21
Norfolk	37	37	30	26	25	24	26	28	31	30
Northamptonshire	35	33	33	33	31	28	28	29	25	26
Northumbria	26	30	31	31	31	31	30	29	35	40
North Wales	34	43	36	31	28	29	33	42	43	48
North Yorkshire	26	33	31	30	26	26	28	35	35	33
Nottinghamshire	28	25	21	20	18	16	18	20	22	23
South Wales	36	39	31	31	33	29	29	29	26	25
South Yorkshire	29	32	25	25	23	21	24	26	27	26
Staffordshire	35	32	22	23	20	31	33	35	35	35
Suffolk	37	41	36	35	33	34	33	32	30	31
Surrey	33	40	32	28	25	22	22	26	25	30
Sussex	26	25	25	23	25	24	24	25	30	31

Detection rates for all recorded offences by police force area, 1997 to 2006-07

Police force area	*1997*	*1998-99*[1]	*1999-2000*[2]	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Thames Valley	24	25	20	22	24	25	23	26	28	25
Warwickshire	27	26	22	22	25	26	25	27	25	27
West Mercia	28	34	29	28	28	33	31	34	34	34
West Midlands	24	30	27	28	29	26	25	23	26	27
West Yorkshire	27	27	25	23	19	20	20	25	28	29
Wiltshire	32	38	33	29	30	28	28	29	32	26
England and Wales	28	29	25	24	22	24	23	26	27	27

n/a = not available

[1] The number of crimes detected in that financial year using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.

[2] New instructions which clarified the rules for detecting crime were introduced on 1 April 1999.

Note:

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the overall detection rate have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Entry Clearances

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are applied in determining a visa application from an individual accused of promoting race hate. [197334]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Secretary may exclude from the UK any person where she judges that their presence here would not be conducive to the public good. A person so excluded will be refused a visa or permission to enter the UK should they make such an application. In August 2005 the then Home Secretary published a list of certain behaviours which, if engaged in, would normally lead to a person being excluded or deported from the UK. That list includes the expression of views that

> "foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK".

Those who promote "race hate" fall within this provision.

Forced Marriage

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of forced marriages; [201657]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to assist those who have been subject to forced marriage. [201659]

Mr. Coaker: In January 2005, the joint Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) was set up by the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The FMU leads on Government policy on forced marriage and has developed guidelines for professionals (the police, education professionals, health and social workers) on how to deal with cases of forced marriage. In addition, as part of the National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan, the FMU coordinates an outreach programme to raise awareness of the problem, and runs a dedicated support and advice helpline for victims of forced marriage. The FMU also works with embassies and high commissions overseas to rescue and repatriate those British citizens forced into marriage overseas.

Last year the FMU:

- assisted approximately 400 victims of forced marriage (168 of these were overseas cases);
- spoke at over 80 awareness raising events around the country;
- contributed to the passage through Parliament of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. One of the provisions of the Act is to make the guidelines for professionals statutory; and also
- assisted in the development of the 'Honour Network'—a helpline to support survivors of forced marriage.

We have also established an Honour Based Violence Steering Group, led by the Home Office, to identify actions and develop a work programme to address honour based violence and also develop a more dedicated approach to respond to the needs of Black, Asian and minority ethnic victims of domestic violence over the next few years.

Genetics

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the advantages and disadvantages of taking mandatory DNA samples from all UK citizens as part of her policy formulation on DNA sampling; and if she will make a statement. [201164]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* We have no current proposals for the establishment of a universal database for DNA. There are practical and ethical implications of moving to such a position and any proposal to do so would need to be subject to lengthy and detailed public debate.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Forensic Science Service has taken to ensure compliance with the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods' standards. [201457]

Meg Hillier: The Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods ("SWGDAM") standards refers to guidelines that were written primarily for assisting North American forensic laboratories in meeting

defined quality standards. Forensic Science Service Ltd. ("FSS") operates to a forensic science quality framework that incorporates independent accreditation of the organisation's scientific methods, and standards employed for validating techniques, to the international quality standard IS017025, (General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories). The FSS is also registered as compliant with the international quality standard IS09001 (Quality Management Systems). The FSS' validation standards and the SWGDAM validation guidelines are similar; however as an additional measure since December 2007, the FSS has implemented a process that involves checking against the SWGDAM validation guidelines when implementing new DNA techniques into casework. The FSS has shared its standards for technique validation with the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, who have adopted them in their own published guidelines for validation, with which the FSS are fully compliant.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average annual cost is of storing a DNA sample with a company or organisation that analyses such samples for the purposes of producing profiles for the national DNA database; and if she will make a statement; [188148]

(2) how much the Department has spent storing DNA samples with companies and organisations that analyse samples for the purposes of producing profiles for the national DNA database in each year since it became operational *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by organisation or company; and if she will make a statement; [188149]

(3) what information accompanies a DNA sample sent to a company or organisation for the purposes of producing a profile for the national DNA database; and if she will make a statement; [188150]

(4) how many DNA samples are stored by companies or organisations that analyse samples for the purpose of producing profiles for the national DNA database *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by company or organisation; and if she will make a statement. [188151]

Meg Hillier: The costs of processing and storing DNA samples fall to individual police forces and are dependent on the contractual agreement between the force and their forensic supplier or suppliers. This information is commercially confidential.

The information accompanying a DNA sample taken under Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 powers from a person arrested for a recordable offence which is sent to a company or organisation for the purposes of producing a profile for the national DNA database is as follows:

a barcode number from the sampling kit;

a police national computer arrest summons report number;

a force custody number (if available);

surname of the person sampled;

forenames;

date of birth;

whether male or female;

an indicator of ethnic appearance;

whether the sample is taken from a mouth swab or hair roots;

the date the sample was taken;

whether the sample is a resample;

a code number showing which police force took the sample and at which police station;

the ID number and surname of the police officer taking the sample;

one of the following indicators of the type of offence for which the person sampled was arrested: homicide; rape; robbery; other violent crime; other sex offences; domestic burglary; other burglary; theft of vehicle; theft from vehicle; criminal damage; drugs offences; other recordable offence;

exhibit number (if known);

police reference/crime number (if known).

Information is not held on the number of samples held by each forensic supplier.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* without a criminal conviction and *(b)* in total had their profiles recorded on the national DNA database in each of the last three years. [201987]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 761W.

Hemp

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the licensing regime for industrial hemp cultivation in preventing illegal drug production. [200536]

Mr. Coaker: Cultivation was first permitted in 1992 since when it has not given rise to any significant problems.

Illegal Immigrants: Restaurants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration raids have taken place on eating establishments in each month since 1 January. [199438]

Mr. Byrne: There is no published information on how many immigration raids have taken place on eating establishments in each month since 1 January.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were found to be working illegally in the restaurant industry in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* each month in 2008. [199439]

Mr. Byrne: There is no published information on how many people were found to be working illegally in the restaurant industry in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* each month in 2008.

Immigration

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is of her estimate that the annual inflow of immigrants

contributes £6 billion to the economy; and what estimate she has made of the annual expenditure of immigrants on goods and services, including repatriated earnings. [199708]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The evidential basis for the impact of migration on trend economic growth is set out in the joint Home Office—DWP submission to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs, The economic and fiscal impact of immigration.

According to official data from the Office for National Statistics, migration added around 0.5 percentage points per annum to growth in the working age population between mid 2001 and mid 2006, and, therefore to overall trend output growth. On this basis, the contribution of migration to economic growth in 2006 would have been some £6 billion.

The trend growth framework employed by the Treasury, and the impact of migration on the trend growth projection, is set out in Trend growth: new evidence and prospects, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/1/pbr06_trendgrowth_345.pdf.

The information requested on expenditure and remittances falls within the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics. No statistics are collected on expenditure by immigrants on goods and services. The available information on remittance payments was laid out in a letter from the National Statistician to Lord Lament of Lerwick on 19 November 2007, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA47-48, in answer to his parliamentary question of that date, to which I refer the hon. Member.

Immigration Officers

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has given on the distance a designated officer may pursue an individual they have detained or attempted to detain at a port who subsequently leaves the port under the powers in section 2 of the UK Borders Act 2007. [199146]

Jacqui Smith: I reported to the House on 3 April on the creation of the UK Border Agency, setting out the purpose and power of the agency to protect our border and making reference to the delivery of new powers to front line officers, including the powers in section 2 of the UK Borders Act.

Full guidance and suitable training will be provided to designated officers before they exercise the section 2 powers. In relation to pursuit, guidance will reflect that this power was introduced to enable a designated immigration officer to go to the immediate vicinity outside the port for the purpose of returning to the port an individual who has absconded from detention.

The guidance will also reflect that in practise, the use of the pursuit power will need to be assessed dynamically on a case by case basis by the designated officer, while weighing benefits against risk and taking full account of their own and their colleagues' safety, as well as that of the individual and members of the public.

Immigration: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 276W, on immigration: housing, how much funding is available for local authorities in the transitional costs fund; how much has been disbursed; which local authorities have received funding; and over what timescale such funding will be available. [198249]

Mr. Byrne: The financial support available will depend on the claims made by local authorities. Funding will be available for some items of expenditure incurred by local authorities on an agreed cohort of supported families cases processed by the Agency. We cannot therefore accurately estimate the level of funding required.

At the present time no payments have been made to any local authority. Support will be made available to individual authorities for a maximum of six months after they have begun to incur qualifying expenditure.

Immigration: Iraq

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi nationals were granted asylum in the UK in each of the last five years. [197382]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of Iraq nationals granted asylum in the United Kingdom is published in the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Provisional figures for 2007 are published in the Quarterly Asylum Statistics Fourth Quarter 2007. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Immigration: Pakistan

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of immigration applications from Pakistan claiming Afghan refugee status in each of the last 10 years. [201631]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum applications is published quarterly. Copies of asylum publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Immigration: Standards

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps will be taken to reduce queuing and waiting times at ports and borders, as referred to in the UK Borders Agency Business Plan; and if she will make a statement. [200587]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* The UK Border Agency is committed to improving the customer experience at our borders and we continue to engage with port operators to deliver this. Work on a set of port by port national standards is already under way and this will be rolled out from June 2008.

The UK Border Agency is also working with the Department for Transport to implement an action plan (as published in November 2007), which will set new standards for the processing of passengers on arrival for implementation over the course of 2008.

Also during the course of 2008 we shall be introducing Service Level Agreements with port operators which will include:

agreed port by port targets for major locations and mechanisms for monitoring and reporting performance against them;

ways of best matching the availability of frontline Border offices and predicted passenger flows; and

a more coordinated approach to flight scheduling to prevent unnecessary pressures when large numbers of flights arrive at the same time.

We would expect these plans to be completed in time to deliver real operational benefits over the course of 2008.

In addition to this we have already implemented the following:

queuing levels are continually monitored and managed and are reported regularly to senior officials;

flexible response teams are deployed to port operations during peak periods as was the case last summer; and

we continue to expand and develop new technologies that might add further relief to queue length and enrolment on IRIS now exceeds 190,000 passengers with over one million crossings through the gates to date.

The level of staff engaged in frontline Border Force activity is at an all time high and we are committed to facilitating the passage of legitimate travellers and goods, without delay at all ports.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer the letter of 26 February 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Naima Alam Manzura. [199879]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 8 April 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to answer the letter of 24 January 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. S. Kadha Hassan Ahmad. [199881]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 16 April 2008.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 19 March 2008, on the proposed abolition of the ancestry visa (reference: M4545/8). [202164]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 25 April 2008.

Missing Persons: Databases

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces are using computerised data systems for management and recording of missing persons reports. [202229]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* All police forces in England and Wales use some form of computer system for the management and recording of missing persons reports. The details of the systems that each police force has in place are given in the following table. This information was obtained from the October 2007 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary "Inspection Reports on Protecting Vulnerable People—Missing Persons", in combination with research carried out by the Missing Persons Bureau (MPB).

A total of 20 police forces use WPC Software's Community Policing and Case Tracking (COMPACT) computer system to record and manage their missing persons' cases. Electronic data transfer between 'COMPACT' forces and the MPB's 'Hermes' system is being arranged.

Automatic data transfer mechanisms for the other systems are being investigated.

At a national level, the MPB use Hermes, which is a purpose-built electronic database, developed and implemented by the Missing People charity through the Invest to Save Initiative in 2004-05. The shared technology between the MPB and the charity facilitates effective transfer of data between the two organisations and collaborative efforts on research and analysis projects.

All police forces and the MPB also have access to the Police National Computer (PNC). The national Guidance on the Management, Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons indicates that officers should record details of all missing persons reported to them on the PNC within 48 hours.

Force	*Paper or Electronic*	*System details*
Avon and Somerset	Electronic	'Guardian' used.
Bedfordshire	Electronic	WPC Community Policing and Case Tracking (COMPACT) used.
Cambridgeshire	Electronic	'Lotus Notes' database linked to 'Intrepid' and Police National Computer (PNC).
Cheshire	Electronic	High risk missing person cases are managed via 'PROMS', otherwise 'ATLAS' used.
City of London Police	Electronic	'Integra' (incident management) used.
Cleveland Police	Electronic	MS 'Access' database used. The force also uses 'Intergraph' C&C system linked to 'IRIS'.
Cumbria Constabulary	Electronic	'SLEUTH' used.
Derbyshire Constabulary	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.

Force	Paper or Electronic	System details
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Dorset Police	Electronic	Bespoke missing persons case management system.
Durham Constabulary	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Dyfed-Powys Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Essex Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Gloucestershire Constabulary	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Greater Manchester Police	Electronic	Bespoke system called 'OPUS'.
Gwent Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Hampshire Constabulary	Electronic	Niche 'RMS' used.
Hertfordshire Constabulary	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Humberside Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Kent Police	Electronic	'STORM' used.
Lancashire Constabulary	Electronic	'SLEUTH' used.
Leicestershire Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Lincolnshire Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Merseyside Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Metropolitan Police	Electronic	'Merlin' used.
Norfolk Constabulary	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
North Wales Police	Electronic	'iTrace' used.
North Yorkshire Police	Electronic	Niche 'RMS' used.
Northamptonshire Police	Electronic	'CHAMPION' used.
Northumbria Police	Electronic	'CIS' used.
Nottinghamshire Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
South Wales Police	Electronic	Niche 'RMS' used.
South Yorkshire Police	Electronic	'iTrace' used.
Staffordshire Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Suffolk Constabulary	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
Surrey Police	Electronic	'CIS' used.
Sussex Police	Electronic	'CIF' database used.
Thames Valley Police	Electronic	Bespoke system.
Warwickshire Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
West Mercia Constabulary	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force.
West Midlands Police	Electronic	A 'COMPACT' force
West Yorkshire Police	Electronic	'IBIS' command and control system used linked to 'OIS' and 'CORVUS'
Wiltshire Constabulary	Electronic	Bespoke system linked to Niche 'RMS'

Missing Persons: Young People

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years were reported missing to the police in each police force area in the latest period for which figures are available. [202225]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Figures for the number of children and young people who are reported missing from home are not collected centrally and this is a matter for individual police forces.

Motorcycles: Training

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the police record the occasions on which they request evidence that a rider of a motorcycle with an engine capacity under 50cc has undertaken compulsory basic training. [200916]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the police.

Police Interrogation: Speech Impaired

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what instructions are issued on the procedure and protocol which a police officer must follow in *(a)* questioning and *(b)* physically taking hold of a person with a speech impediment observed to be under the influence of neither drugs nor alcohol, when the officer cannot understand what the suspect is saying. [201355]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The Code of Practice for the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by police officers (Code C) issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984, provides that if a person appears to be blind, seriously visually impaired, deaf, unable to read or speak or has difficulty orally because of a speech impediment they shall be treated as such while in police detention. A person with speech difficulties must not be interviewed in the absence of an interpreter unless they agree in writing to being interviewed without one. Where there is doubt about the speaking ability of a parent or guardian attending as an appropriate adult, an interpreter should also be called unless they agree in writing to the interview being proceeding without one.

Police Stations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1320W, on police stations, how many *(a)* police kiosks, *(b)* mobile police stations, *(c)* police shops in high streets and *(d)* other public access methods are operated by the police in England and Wales, broken down by police authority. [201342]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the Chief Officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Accidents

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many accidents involving police *(a)* pursuit and *(b)* patrol cars and drivers and members of the public resulting in serious injuries or death there were in each of the last five years; [198455]

(2) how many police vehicles were involved in road accidents resulting in *(a)* slight injuries, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* fatalities in the last five years; [198456]

(3) how many and what percentage of police vehicles involved in accidents while responding to an emergency or otherwise in pursuit were *(a)* motorway patrol vehicles, *(b)* armed response vehicles and *(c)* other police vehicles in each year since 1995. [198457]

Mr. McNulty: The data provided here are a supplementary series collected on behalf and released with the approval of Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC). These data are normally used for inspection purposes only.

The centrally collected data on road traffic collisions are as follows:

1. Road traffic collisions on public roads involving police vehicles.

2. Road traffic collisions on public roads during immediate/emergency response and police pursuit.

3. For the road traffic collisions at No. 2., the number of casualties and the degree of injury.

These data have been collected centrally from 2002-03 and are provided in the following tables.

Number of road traffic collisions on public roads involving police vehicles by police force area, from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	RTCs involving police vehicles	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*	*RTCs involving police vehicles*	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*	*RTCs involving police vehicles*	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*	*RTCs involving police vehicles*	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*	*RTCs involving police vehicles*	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*
Avon and Somerset	647	490	618	485	541	409	501	372	508	404
Bedfordshire	196	161	242	208	221	150	243	186	231	180
Cambridgeshire	217	152	233	139	264	169	154	106	169	0
Cheshire	167	142	253	220	242	223	152	130	179	161
Cleveland	142	93	55	40	0	0	216	92	192	72
Cumbria	186	111	207	127	213	122	177	93	128	82
Derbyshire	447	127	452	128	320	146	343	153	328	130
Devon and Cornwall	449	308	415	301	450	178	406	166	388	179
Dorset	184	141	198	165	189	161	179	147	197	[1]—
Durham	[1]—	[1]—	209	152	175	131	126	93	122	87
Dyfed-Powys	204	27	67	20	221	70	176	36	106	36
Essex	414	306	345	259	327	245	391	259	607	254
Gloucestershire	203	118	162	104	225	[1]—	198	106	205	[1]—
Greater Manchester	1,038	815	1,075	772	925	688	888	656	853	627
Gwent	160	94	219	99	194	109	205	126	75	33
Hampshire	543	346	627	313	499	284	564	305	570	301
Hertfordshire	344	253	346	246	314	256	343	238	340	242
Humberside	150	92	238	124	204	110	179	96	247	138
Kent	732	271	593	244	697	195	564	250	513	194
Lancashire	510	93	489	91	412	80	422	50	557	99
Leicestershire	180	145	194	145	[1]—	[1]—	184	34	185	47
Lincolnshire	131	85	181	126	179	117	133	26	151	111
London, City of	38	31	107	56	64	41	77	44	147	106
Merseyside	240	225	297	253	244	211	273	226	270	231
Metropolitan Police	4,910	2,590	5,284	4,401	5,318	4,448	4,666	2,750	4,333	3,518
Norfolk	231	162	313	167	317	140	290	137	226	137
Northamptonshire	121	107	104	86	139	129	97	79	122	115
Northumbria	513	360	473	215	504	328	565	398	410	267
North Wales	60	54	80	59	81	68	72	74	74	66
North Yorkshire	397	16	126	18	77	67	32	31	23	17
Nottinghamshire	316	194	62	51	287	181	595	181	266	172

Number of road traffic collisions on public roads involving police vehicles by police force area, from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	RTCs involving police vehicles	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*	*RTCs involving police vehicles*	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*	*RTCs involving police vehicles*	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*	*RTCs involving police vehicles*	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*	*RTCs involving police vehicles*	*RTCs also involving non-police vehicles*
South Wales	917	202	862	162	0	0	749	172	789	170
South Yorkshire	316	[1]—	354	293	380	316	213	112	291	159
Staffordshire	306	156	536	178	410	150	568	162	377	111
Suffolk	119	74	179	84	228	124	178	62	193	97
Surrey	320	124	357	151	432	187	416	147	422	172
Sussex	470	257	256	160	237	139	214	97	260	152
Thames Valley	992	256	1,057	478	802	506	994	598	824	600
Warwickshire	119	64	155	99	123	66	128	68	114	68
West Mercia	293	183	256	158	254	158	281	163	303	175
West Midlands	[1]—	[1]—	1,418	765	1,488	774	1,183	700	1,123	600
West Yorkshire	672	540	761	596	783	598	883	547	720	334
Wiltshire	50	0	56	0	66	3	62	8	70	2

Number of road traffic collisions during immediatelemergency response and police pursuit by police force area, from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	RTCs from immediate responselpursuit	*Those involving injury*	*RTCs from immediate responselpursuit*	*Those involving injury*	*RTCs from immediate responselpursuit*	*Those involving injury*
Avon and Somerset	242	22	290	328	237	56
Bedfordshire	126	18	156	30	111	24
Cambridgeshire	103	10	96	10	107	20
Cheshire	58	18	42	12	88	27
Cleveland	88	18	28	4	0	0
Cumbria	50	9	34	5	42	6
Derbyshire	81	26	71	15	94	28
Devon and Cornwall	58	19	66	16	73	9
Dorset	37	9	17	8	[1]—	[1]—
Durham	[1]—	[1]—	108	28	101	16
Dyfed-Powys	2	0	1	0	2	0
Essex	127	23	22	22	21	21
Gloucestershire	57	24	60	5	55	12
Greater Manchester	185	49	198	43	196	62
Gwent	47	7	52	11	39	5
Hampshire	163	8	90	10	60	7
Hertfordshire	150	40	73	16	152	32
Humberside	53	13	33	11	52	11
Kent	198	25	96	80	144	20
Lancashire	62	17	56	15	53	11
Leicestershire	62	18	83	8	[1]—	[1]—
Lincolnshire	38	8	62	14	60	14
London, City of	7	0	21	2	14	1
Merseyside	100	39	116	51	75	38
Metropolitan Police	2,292	166	2,441	483	2,399	468
Norfolk	41	15	41	19	48	19
Northamptonshire	53	11	55	14	59	17
Northumbria	198	53	167	42	179	65
North Wales	18	7	16	6	11	19
North Yorkshire	48	23	0	0	21	6
Nottinghamshire	127	13	49	49	19	5
South Wales	151	18	124	7	0	0
South Yorkshire	98	27	95	79	52	21
Staffordshire	106	26	98	30	63	8
Suffolk	37	7	57	14	39	10

Number of road traffic collisions during immediate/emergency response and police pursuit by police force area, from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	RTCs from immediate response/pursuit	*Those involving injury*	*RTCs from immediate response/pursuit*	*Those involving injury*	*RTCs from immediate response/pursuit*	*Those involving injury*
Surrey	118	24	104	22	156	26
Sussex	147	42	90	36	76	27
Thames Valley	222	97	217	84	321	45
Warwickshire	22	5	42	11	37	10
West Mercia	56	21	49	16	50	20
West Midlands	[—]	[—]	247	33	243	44
West Yorkshire	258	15	163	7	169	7
Wiltshire	17	5	14	4	15	7

	2005-06		2006-07	
	RTCs from immediate response/pursuit	*Those involving injury*	*RTCs from immediate response/pursuit*	*Those involving injury*
Avon and Somerset	210	42	209	[—]
Bedfordshire	113	17	98	12
Cambridgeshire	52	9	73	0
Cheshire	37	13	48	11
Cleveland	83	27	100	21
Cumbria	33	5	32	3
Derbyshire	91	6	79	9
Devon and Cornwall	85	7	91	12
Dorset	56	15	27	2
Durham	52	14	54	13
Dyfed-Powys	2	0	3	0
Essex	67	14	92	22
Gloucestershire	48	6	59	8
Greater Manchester	176	53	157	51
Gwent	49	9	38	5
Hampshire	94	15	104	10
Hertfordshire	140	25	141	38
Humberside	34	7	72	15
Kent	161	20	80	8
Lancashire	57	16	56	12
Leicestershire	82	11	82	16
Lincolnshire	37	14	43	6
London, City of	17	4	1	0
Merseyside	113	83	88	27
Metropolitan Police	1,894	284	2,030	335
Norfolk	34	10	56	10
Northamptonshire	41	13	47	11
Northumbria	188	60	131	43
North Wales	13	1	20	10
North Yorkshire	12	11	14	14
Nottinghamshire	58	13	55	9
South Wales	137	3	124	1
South Yorkshire	15	5	52	14
Staffordshire	68	6	74	17
Suffolk	14	5	38	10
Surrey	148	23	155	20
Sussex	77	36	6	11
Thames Valley	352	89	373	40
Warwickshire	42	8	44	8
West Mercia	57	18	53	15
West Midlands	236	21	221	12
West Yorkshire	123	24	197	52
Wiltshire	16	2	9	3

Number of casualties resulting from those road traffic accidents during immediatelemergency response by police force area, from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
	Fatal injury	*Serious injury*	*Other injury*	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Other injury*	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Other injury*
Avon and Somerset	2	7	53	2	6	74	0	9	52
Bedfordshire	0	2	16	1	1	56	1	1	27
Cambridgeshire	0	6	6	0	4	12	0	0	26
Cheshire	0	2	27	0	1	17	0	7	29
Cleveland	0	0	18	1	0	3	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	8	0	0	5	0	0	6
Derbyshire	0	0	38	0	1	25	1	0	35
Devon and Cornwall	0	1	26	1	1	64	0	0	18
Dorset	0	1	10	1	2	9	[1]	[1]	[1]
Durham	0	1	41	2	1	36	0	1	26
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	2	32	2	3	36	1	3	35
Gloucestershire	0	0	24	0	0	4	0	0	12
Greater Manchester	4	5	74	6	9	56	4	2	106
Gwent	0	0	12	0	0	24	0	0	5
Hampshire	1	7	29	0	3	7	0	0	7
Hertfordshire	0	6	59	0	2	16	0	5	61
Humberside	0	4	19	0	1	25	0	0	18
Kent	0	2	48	0	7	73	0	2	23
Lancashire	0	1	31	0	2	30	1	0	19
Leicestershire	1	2	15	0	2	16	[1]	[1]	[1]
Lincolnshire	0	2	10	0	5	18	2	2	12
London, City of	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Merseyside	3	3	62	3	6	75	0	3	58
Metropolitan Police	5	14	[1]	4	21	600	4	23	724
Norfolk	1	1	17	1	1	28	0	6	26
Northamptonshire	0	1	14	1	6	19	0	4	22
Northumbria	0	3	62	0	3	70	3	13	94
North Wales	0	0	18	0	1	5	0	0	3
North Yorkshire	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	2	13	0	2	7
Nottinghamshire	2	5	8	1	8	57	1	0	4
South Wales	0	0	20	0	0	9	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	3	24	0	12	67	2	10	83
Staffordshire	0	0	26	0	1	29	0	0	1
Suffolk	0	1	6	0	3	11	0	2	8
Surrey	0	2	40	1	2	33	0	1	31
Sussex	0	7	45	0	6	27	2	0	31
Thames Valley	3	13	115	2	11	122	0	6	71
Warwickshire	0	0	5	0	1	10	2	0	8
West Mercia	0	4	30	0	2	22	0	4	32
West Midlands	1	1	61	2	2	44	0	0	44
West Yorkshire	0	0	15	0	0	7	0	2	5
Wiltshire	0	0	8	0	0	4	0	0	11

	2005-06			2006-07		
	Fatal injury	*Serious injury*	*Other injury*	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Other injury*
Avon and Somerset	2	3	68	0	8	42
Bedfordshire	0	0	17	1	2	11
Cambridgeshire	0	0	10	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	5	30	0	2	18
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	1	8
Cumbria	2	0	3	0	0	3
Derbyshire	0	0	6	0	0	16
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	15	0	1	20
Dorset	1	1	17	0	1	7
Durham	0	2	13	0	1	21
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	1	4	17	0	0	22

	2005-06			2006-07		
	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Other injury	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Other injury
Gloucestershire	0	0	6	[1]	[1]	[1]
Greater Manchester	1	3	91	6	6	64
Gwent	0	1	13	0	0	7
Hampshire	1	7	10	1	5	4
Hertfordshire	2	3	45	0	11	48
Humberside	0	0	12	1	0	19
Kent	1	1	18	0	0	12
Lancashire	0	0	28	0	2	32
Leicestershire	0	1	10	0	1	15
Lincolnshire	0	1	13	0	0	6
London, City of	0	1	6	0	0	0
Merseyside	3	3	136	1	4	88
Metropolitan Police	4	33	584	4	26	496
Norfolk	0	0	10	0	0	10
Northamptonshire	0	1	18	1	7	13
Northumbria	1	5	84	1	5	64
North Wales	0	0	1	0	0	24
North Yorkshire	0	2	10	0	11	16
Nottinghamshire	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
South Wales	0	0	3	0	0	1
South Yorkshire	0	2	11	0	33	35
Staffordshire	1	0	5	0	0	17
Suffolk	1	1	4	0	0	16
Surrey	0	1	31	0	2	24
Sussex	5	0	23	0	0	43
Thames Valley	0	2	127	3	6	56
Warwickshire	0	0	8	0	0	8
West Mercia	0	2	26	0	1	23
West Midlands	0	0	31	0	0	12
West Yorkshire	0	0	24	0	0	52
Wiltshire	0	0	4	0	0	4

[1] Data are not available.

Police: Airports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 11-12WS, on policing (UK borders), how much each airport operator has reimbursed police authorities for the costs of uniformed police officers at airports designated under section 25 of the Aviation Security Act 1982 in the latest period for which figures are available. [194698]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer on this matter of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 612W.

This information is not held centrally. There is no requirement for the police or airport operator to provide Government with the details of the agreed policing provision or the related costs. The number and cost of uniformed police officers at designated airports is for negotiation at local level by the airport operator and police.

However, the Government are also considering how to implement the conclusions of the independent report into airport policing, with the aim of clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the police, airport operators and other agencies to deliver a high level of security at UK airports and we will set out proposals on this later in the year.

Police: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the website www.direct.gov.uk/neighbourhoodpolicing in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception. [200384]

Mr. Byrne: It is not possible to extract the costs of this website from the others we manage.

Police: Labour Turnover

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers left each police force due to *(a)* retirement, *(b)* resignation, *(c)* transfer to another force and *(d)* other reasons in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [201809]

Mr. McNulty: Data for police officer leavers during 2007-08 are scheduled for publication at the end of July 2008. The available data for 2006-07 are given in the following table.

Police officer leavers[1] by police force area (FTE)[2] for 2006-07[3, 4]

	Retirements	Resignations	Transfers	Other
Avon and Somerset	77	35	27	1
Bedfordshire	27	23	16	6
Cambridgeshire	42	28	18	1
Cheshire	64	24	13	4
Cleveland	38	25	11	0
Cumbria	29	17	2	0
Derbyshire	84	41	8	6
Devon and Cornwall	84	34	17	6
Dorset	77	19	9	3
Durham	38	16	9	0
Dyfed-Powys	31	8	10	0
Essex	108	81	119	9
Gloucestershire	46	20	6	3
Greater Manchester	232	159	86	12
Gwent	36	16	13	2
Hampshire	120	49	35	2
Hertfordshire	42	63	68	5
Humberside	71	34	14	2
Kent	134	49	40	3
Lancashire	116	32	17	9
Leicestershire	74	27	31	7
Lincolnshire	63	16	14	4
London, City of	30	11	24	2
Merseyside	177	63	11	3
Metropolitan Police	828	531	272	51
Norfolk	61	24	12	2
Northamptonshire	46	19	33	4
Northumbria	89	29	11	9
North Wales	46	22	12	5
North Yorkshire	56	32	16	0
Nottinghamshire	89	28	23	2
South Wales	144	39	4	1
South Yorkshire	112	38	38	3
Staffordshire	58	22	24	11
Suffolk	33	12	11	2
Surrey	61	46	71	11
Sussex	88	76	44	8
Thames Valley	109	86	87	8
Warwickshire	49	18	12	0
West Mercia	75	38	26	4
West Midlands	252	105	86	32
West Yorkshire	230	65	38	9
Wiltshire	33	16	4	1

[1]. Includes transfers to other England and Wales forces but does not include officers leaving after a period of secondment. The other category includes those leaving the service due to dismissal or death.

[2]. Full Time Equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[3] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[4]. Data have not previously been previously published in this format therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were per notifiable offence in England in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [200475]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Table 1: Total offences per officer for 1997

Police force area	Number
Avon and Somerset	48
Bedfordshire	44
Cambridgeshire	47
Cheshire	30
Cleveland	43
Cumbria	31
Derbyshire	42
Devon and Cornwall	32
Dorset	34
Durham	32
Essex	31
Gloucestershire	43
Greater Manchester	44
Hampshire	36
Hertfordshire	29
Humberside	60
Kent	38
Lancashire	37
Leicestershire	41
Lincolnshire	36
London, City of	6
Merseyside	30
Metropolitan Police	30
Norfolk	37
Northamptonshire	46
Northumbria	37
North Yorkshire	37
Nottinghamshire	55
South Yorkshire	41
Staffordshire	39
Suffolk	30
Surrey	24
Sussex	37
Thames valley	42
Warwickshire	39
West Mercia	38
West Midlands	39
West Yorkshire	47
Wiltshire	29
England	37

Note:
Recorded crime statistics were collected on a calendar year basis up to 1997 and thereafter on a financial year basis. Therefore, these figures are not comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Total offences per officer for 1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Avon and Somerset	50	50	50	57
Bedfordshire	47	52	48	49
Cambridgeshire	53	56	50	51
Cheshire	31	32	32	34
Cleveland	47	46	46	49
Cumbria	36	35	31	34
Derbyshire	48	48	45	49
Devon and Cornwall	38	39	35	33
Dorset	41	40	37	40
Durham	32	31	28	32
Essex	33	37	37	38
Gloucestershire	44	46	43	43
Greater Manchester	53	55	53	53
Hampshire	37	40	39	39
Hertfordshire	29	30	33	37
Humberside	66	63	58	57
Kent	40	39	39	36
Lancashire	36	34	36	42
Leicestershire	47	47	43	42
Lincolnshire	41	41	37	42
London, City of	9	11	12	13
Merseyside	33	36	35	37
Metropolitan Police	36	41	40	40
Norfolk	41	43	40	40
Northamptonshire	58	55	49	50
Northumbria	39	38	35	35
North Yorkshire	41	42	40	42
Nottinghamshire	61	62	61	68
South Yorkshire	42	42	39	42
Staffordshire	41	46	49	55
Suffolk	34	38	39	42
Surrey	26	26	31	31
Sussex	46	48	48	47
Thames Valley	47	51	51	52
Warwickshire	42	43	40	44
West Mercia	40	45	40	51
West Midlands	43	51	49	48
West Yorkshire	55	54	54	61
Wiltshire	33	34	33	33
England	41	44	42	44

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1989-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997 and earlier.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later.

Table 3: Total offences per officer for 2002-03 to 2006-07

Police force area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	55	48	48	46	48
Bedfordshire	55	53	48	50	48
Cambridgeshire	61	57	53	47	50

Table 3: Total offences per officer for 2002-03 to 2006-07

Police force area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Cheshire	40	42	41	44	41
Cleveland	47	44	41	43	40
Cumbria	33	32	35	35	31
Derbyshire	52	48	41	40	40
Devon and Cornwall	41	40	40	36	36
Dorset	44	44	40	40	37
Durham	31	29	27	31	32
Essex	46	47	42	40	39
Gloucestershire	45	45	41	41	40
Greater Manchester	52	46	40	41	42
Hampshire	42	48	46	47	48
Hertfordshire	44	46	46	45	42
Humberside	63	64	56	52	51
Kent	37	38	38	41	40
Lancashire	39	43	43	40	38
Leicestershire	45	42	42	41	42
Lincolnshire	51	49	48	47	45
London, City of	12	11	10	10	9
Merseyside	40	41	40	41	35
Metropolitan Police	39	36	33	32	30
Norfolk	48	46	43	42	40
Northamptonshire	61	63	58	52	52
Northumbria	42	39	35	33	33
North Yorkshire	47	47	40	36	33
Nottinghamshire	67	64	57	56	57
South Yorkshire	48	43	43	50	49
Staffordshire	49	48	44	46	46
Suffolk	40	41	40	41	38
Surrey	36	38	37	36	39
Sussex	44	44	46	44	43
Thames Valley	54	52	50	48	50
Warwickshire	44	45	43	42	43
West Mercia	47	45	40	36	34
West Midlands	45	43	36	36	34
West Yorkshire	64	62	47	46	44
Wiltshire	38	35	33	35	37
England	45	44	40	40	38

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording standard in April 2002. These figures are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Police: Translation Services

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the costs of providing translation services in each police authority area of England and Wales were in each of the last two years. [187206]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been *(a)* proceeded against for and *(b)* convicted of failing to disclose information in encrypted form under section 53 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; [200550]

(2) how many prosecutions and convictions there have been under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 for withholding passwords and encryption keys to hard drives since that provision entered into force. [200588]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* These provisions came into force on 1 October 2007 and to date eight section 49 notices have been served, four of which were in terrorism related cases. In these four cases two people have been charged with the offence of failing to comply with a section 49 notice, and the appropriate investigating authorities are also considering what action to take in regard to the other two terrorist related cases. These cases have yet to come before the courts.

In two of the remaining (non-terrorism related cases) the encryption keys have been disclosed.

Robbery

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many robberies there were in each police force area in each year since 1997. [200390]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Table 1: Robbery offences recorded by the police by police force area—1997 to 2001-02

Number of offences

Police force area	*1997*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	1,562	1,831	2,381	2,765	4,889
Bedfordshire	531	530	615	663	957
British Transport Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	350	437	548	539	679
Cheshire	319	397	466	486	472
Cleveland	507	908	839	932	1,264
Cumbria	101	119	90	94	143
Derbyshire	396	504	584	773	1,029
Devon and Cornwall	389	462	487	432	474
Dorset	206	205	241	309	334
Durham	142	172	236	231	284
Dyfed-Powys	34	42	28	23	26
Essex	438	523	626	700	920
Gloucestershire	369	273	291	363	498
Greater Manchester	6,296	7,632	8,634	9,918	11,027
Gwent	156	173	216	244	215
Hampshire	554	588	732	794	872
Hertfordshire	289	250	420	508	678
Humberside	757	839	950	999	1,190
Kent	709	712	827	1,000	1,003
Lancashire	845	981	1,058	1,224	1,608
Leicestershire	880	967	1,023	1,067	1,167
Lincolnshire	107	149	178	191	251
London, City of	34	29	49	53	46
Merseyside	2,141	2,484	2,663	2,405	3,155
Metropolitan Police	27,386	26,330	36,317	40,992	53,547
Norfolk	189	220	297	330	401
Northamptonshire	415	443	481	604	877
Northumbria	1,260	1,347	1,389	1,381	1,390
North Wales	112	127	146	163	194
North Yorkshire	198	170	212	186	291
Nottinghamshire	1,145	1,312	1,768	2,050	2,725
South Wales	509	511	519	460	595
South Yorkshire	946	979	1,122	1,438	1,952
Staffordshire	498	509	697	796	963
Suffolk	141	140	223	177	289
Surrey	192	171	224	456	519
Sussex	681	939	1,020	1,241	1,250
Thames Valley	1,256	1,327	1,659	2,147	2,894
Warwickshire	146	170	224	252	370
West Mercia	287	351	359	423	646
West Midlands	6,737	7,315	10,092	11,351	13,322
West Yorkshire	2,698	3,072	3,088	3,781	5,674
Wiltshire	164	193	258	193	279
England and Wales	63,072	66,835	84,277	95,154	121,359

n/a = not available

Note:

Figures in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002 They are directly therefore not comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Robbery offences recorded by the police by police force area—2002-03 to 2006-07

Number of offences

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	3,504	2,908	2,237	2,036	1,987
Bedfordshire	997	993	1,028	1,317	1,248
British Transport Police	2,242	2,542	2,037	2,166	1,953
Cambridgeshire	906	786	634	562	733
Cheshire	631	647	533	654	688
Cleveland	1,434	1,355	898	715	576
Cumbria	130	124	109	87	68
Derbyshire	1,048	1,019	802	772	870
Devon and Cornwall	710	562	541	566	649
Dorset	437	445	342	255	190
Durham	287	267	178	281	233
Dyfed-Powys	40	54	41	40	47
Essex	1,328	1,476	1,426	1,424	1,531
Gloucestershire	521	541	384	476	394
Greater Manchester	10,745	9,246	7,544	7,719	8,213
Gwent	329	274	351	316	282
Hampshire	966	1,040	948	1,078	1,212
Hertfordshire	862	972	875	933	985
Humberside	1,807	1,896	1,262	1,185	1,200
Kent	1,242	1,172	1,195	1,351	1,403

Table 2: Robbery offences recorded by the police by police force area—2002-03 to 2006-07

Number of offences

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Lancashire	1,409	1,285	1,092	1,021	1,014
Leicestershire	1,453	1,476	1,329	1,244	1,214
Lincolnshire	307	304	243	229	230
London, City of	45	50	42	39	41
Merseyside	2,994	2,347	2,173	2,502	2,290
Metropolitan Police	42,493	40,639	39,033	45,311	45,771
Norfolk	579	459	324	301	359
Northamptonshire	1,015	1,220	875	1,069	1,037
Northumbria	1,442	1,223	1,176	1,070	1,055
North Wales	224	201	149	150	134
North Yorkshire	356	395	328	240	278
Nottinghamshire	2,799	2,556	2,011	2,112	2,434
South Wales	784	751	543	631	891
South Yorkshire	2,112	1,400	1,131	1,258	1,594
Staffordshire	900	909	111	766	758
Suffolk	249	290	260	271	271
Surrey	605	619	462	446	446
Sussex	1,319	1,425	1,228	1,098	1,007
Thames Valley	2,406	2,286	1,968	1,926	2,320
Warwickshire	354	456	353	429	486
West Mercia	728	689	531	453	581
West Midlands	10,249	10,371	9,165	8,867	9,186
West Yorkshire	4,947	3,738	2,196	2,531	3,148
Wiltshire	336	328	256	301	363
England and Wales	110,271	103,736	91,010	98,198	101,370

Notes:
1. Figures in this table are after the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. They are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. Includes British Transport Police from 2002-03.

Runaway Children

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports police forces received of children missing from home in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [193590]

Mr. McNulty: Statistics on the number, age or gender of children who are reported missing from home are not collected centrally.

The new national Missing Persons Bureau (MPB) was launched by the National Policing Improvement Agency on 1 April 2008 and will be seeking to develop national information to support local police operations. One of the priorities for the MPB is to carry out a strategic assessment on the missing person phenomenon and to produce a "problem profile", thereby establishing a baseline on which to formulate, develop and measure future policy initiatives in close consultation with the missing persons Strategic Oversight Group.

Terrorism

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Appendix A of the Joint Committee on Human Rights' Nineteenth Report of Session 2006-07, how many of the individuals arrested and charged with terrorist offences were *(a)* released on bail and *(b)* had their charges subsequently dropped. [197346]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* Of the 24 individuals arrested as a result of Operation Overt, as listed in Appendix A of the Joint Committee on Human Rights' Nineteenth Report of Session 2006-07, 17 were charged. Of these 17, four individuals have been granted conditional bail by the court while awaiting trial. An additional two, charged with having information about an act of terrorism, have had their cases dismissed at court. These statistics were compiled from figures provided by the Metropolitan Police Service.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis was for the figures quoted in the National Security Strategy, and her interview in the *News of the World* newspaper of 13 April 2008, on the number of individuals, networks and active plots being monitored by anti-terrorism agencies in the UK; and to what period of time these figures were relevant. [200514]

Jacqui Smith: The Director General of the Security Service spoke publicly in November 2007 about the scale of the terrorist threat facing the United Kingdom, as did his predecessor 12 months earlier. Based on available intelligence and their judgment, they described it in terms of numbers of plots, groups or networks and numbers of individuals. Those were the figures to which I referred in the interview and are included in paragraph 3.4 of the National Security Strategy.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been detained on suspicion of terrorist or related offences but were released by the police or security services because they were not able to compile enough evidence to charge them within the 28 day period allowed for detention without charge in each police authority in the last two years. [201439]

Mr. McNulty: The police do not centrally hold information on the release of terrorist suspects who they do not wish to detain beyond the pre-charge detention period set out in legislation or the detailed circumstances of each case where a suspect is not charged.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the five most common makes and models of vehicles stolen in each police authority area were in each of the last five years. [200480]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available from the recorded crime statistics collected centrally.

The Car Theft Index shows the makes and models of car most at risk of being stolen in England, Scotland

and Wales but does not highlight any regional trends. A copy of the latest edition is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/car-theft-index/

Tourists: Fingerprints

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has *(a)* issued and *(b)* published on the fingerprinting of UK citizens arriving at British airports from overseas; and if she will make a statement. [196677]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that no guidance has been issued or published with regard to a requirement to fingerprint UK Citizens arriving at British airports from overseas.

UK Border Agency: Logos

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the design and introduction of a logo for the UK Border Agency, broken down by category of expenditure. [200178]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The development of the new UK Border Agency logo incurred a cost of £12,000 in design fees. A further £17,000 was spent on producing a set of templates and guidelines to cover all applications of the logo. A further £1,200 was spent on printing a summary guidelines booklet to distribute to senior managers within the UK Border Agency.

UK Border Agency: Uniforms

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the design and introduction of uniforms for the UK Border Agency to date; how much the total projected spend is on the design and introduction of new uniforms for the UK Border Agency; and if she will provide a cost breakdown by category of expenditure. [200179]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* To date there has been no expenditure on the design and introduction of new uniforms for the UK Border Agency. No costs have yet been forecast. A cost breakdown by category is therefore not available.

Violence: Media

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library the full Home Office research report entitled The effects of video violence on young offenders (1998). [190059]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* A summary of the findings from the report regarding Video Violence and Young Offenders (1998) were published as a Research Findings by RDS in 1998. The full report has not been published by the Department and hence has not been subject to RDS editorial and quality assurance checks that apply to any of our published research.

We have forwarded a copy of the full report to the House of Commons Library.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationality: Prisoners

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records he keeps of consular visits to prisoners abroad. [201237]

Meg Munn: Records of consular visits to prisoners abroad are entered onto the Foreign and Commonwealth Office central consular assistance database: "Compass". Consular staff overseas aim to write up a detailed description of a visit within 48 hours of it having taken place.

Burma: Constitutions

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessments he has made of the likelihood that the planned referendum on the Burmese draft constitution will be free and fair; and if he will make a statement. [200929]

Meg Munn: The Burmese regime's referendum on their new constitution, set for 10 May 2008, is being conducted in an atmosphere of harassment and intimidation. Criticism of the process and the draft constitution is punishable by long prison sentences. The regime has excluded opposition figures and representatives of ethnic groups in Burma from participating in the process and denies the "No" campaign a platform to air its arguments. The referendum seeks to perpetuate the role of the military in the government of the country. The constitution as drafted specifically targets Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, disqualifying her from office for having a foreign spouse. Members of religious orders will also be disenfranchised.

We endorse the view of UN Special Rapporteur on human rights, Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, who commented on 14 March:

"No referendum or elections can be fair, no transition to democracy can be effective, without the release of political prisoners, the authorisation for all political parties to operate, and the protection of the basic civil and political freedoms, all non-existent in Myanmar".

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with *(a)* the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, *(b)* the Department for International Development, *(c)* non-governmental UK organisations and *(d)* other governments before the announcement of 23rd March 2008 on the funding of the Chevening and Commonwealth Scholarships programmes. [200283]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson) on 23 April 2008; *Official Report*, column 2122W.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the recent decision to reduce funding for the Chevening Scholarship programme will affect people who have applied to the scheme for a place during 2008-09. [200284]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The decision was made before scholarships for 2008-09 were offered. So while there is increased competition for scholarships for 2008-09, those who have been offered scholarships will not be affected.

China: Olympic Games

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chinese authorities on the conditions placed on British athletes participating in the Beijing Olympics. [202165]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Athletes' conditions, at the Beijing Olympic Games, are a matter for the British Olympic Association (BOA), an independent organisation, and are firmly covered by the International Olympic Committee charter. The BOA has a responsibility to safeguard the interests of all athletes and provide an environment where preparations can be undertaken to optimise performance with the minimum of distraction.

China: Oppression

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the arrest of human rights lawyer Ms Ni Yulan in China; and if he will make a statement. [200912]

Meg Munn: We have not received any reports of the arrest of Ms Ni Yulan.

We have previously raised individual cases of human rights lawyers with the Chinese authorities and continue to urge them to protect the legitimate rights of lawyers in China. The role of defence lawyers was a key theme at both the 14th and 15th round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue. At the most recent round of the dialogue, we welcomed the new revisions to the Lawyers' Law, coming into force on 1 June, which give increased rights to defence lawyers.

Commonwealth: Scholarships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the change in the number of Commonwealth scholarships as a result of the reduction in funding announced on 23rd March 2008. [200286]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The number of new Commonwealth scholars each year depends on the number staying on from previous years for a second or third year of study. For example, in 2006 there were 56 new scholars funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and in 2007, 46. For 2008, 68 candidates have been selected in anticipation that not all will be able to take up their places.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary told the House on 13 March 2008, the changes we are making to FCO scholarship programmes mean that we will end the FCO contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. From 2009 there will be no new scholars funded by the FCO, but we will continue to pay for those on two or three-year awards.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 1187W, on departmental data protection, if he will include information assurance data on data loss incidents in previous years in his Department's next annual report. [199182]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 1119 and the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 17 December 2007, *Official Report,* column 98WS. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data.

The interim report of 17 December 2007 committed to put in place a programme to examine and improve data handling procedures. An update on this commitment will be included in the final report, expected in spring 2008, and this report will detail the information to be included by Departments on data loss in their annual reports.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of introducing his Department's new website was; for what reasons his Department's website was changed; and if he will make a statement. [201078]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The recent upgrade of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) corporate website is part of a wider project to deliver a new web platform and improved web presence for the FCO over five years.

The work will provide a single technical platform for all the FCO websites (including the main FCO website, Arabic and Urdu versions of the FCO website, UKvisas website, the FCO Freedom of Information website, and 229 embassy, high commission and special mission sites in multiple languages) as well as new designs, content, functionality and a new hub and spoke model for delivering business support.

The project will complete in September 2008, by which time all of the FCO posts websites will have joined the new platform and will operate under the central domain, fco.gov.uk.

The initial cost of £9.7 million for the web platform was set out in the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Meg Munn) on 30 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 398W. The project is on target to cost £19.2 million over five years. This includes running costs, for example hosting and

support, and some staff salaries. The cost of the project to date is £9.2 million which includes the design and implementation of the FCO and UKvisas websites, and the design of the embassy and high commission websites. It also includes procurement costs, client side advice, setting up regional hubs to provide business support, and training. Details of the project and costs were published in Whitehall and Westminster World on 4 April:

http://www.civilservicenetwork.com/index.php?id=41&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34250&tx_ttnews[backPid]=29

The web is vital for the delivery of the FCO's Departmental strategic objectives. More people, in the UK and overseas, have contact with the FCO through the web than through any other channel. The FCO is committed to using the web to deliver its Policy Goals as well as key services such as travel advice and visa information.

The project has followed the Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review process and is delivering on time and to budget.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many public consultations his Department has held in the last three years; and how many respondents there were to each. [198678]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) welcomes views on policy issues from the public and stakeholders, for example during the recent review of its strategic priorities. FCO departments and posts hold their own budgets for public consultations and therefore the information requested is not held centrally. A more detailed answer would require a survey of all of our Embassies, High Commissions and subordinate posts, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to promote human rights in developing countries [200976]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

A reply to my hon. Friend's question will be issued shortly.

Substantive answer from Gillian Merron to Jim Cunningham:

The UK Government continues regular bi-lateral dialogue with governments to raise human rights issues and as part of country planning. This includes working with governments in developing countries to assess human rights as a basis for development programmes and to develop human rights commitments with agreed indicators of progress.

Active participation in international fora to promote human rights is a priority for the UK Government. This includes support to the UN Secretary-General's initiative to strengthen human rights institutions at country level; and to the UN's new Universal Periodic Review process which will review the human rights record of all UN states over a four year period.

The UK Government support a range of programmes at country level which support civil, economic, political, social and cultural rights. This includes support to women and excluded groups to participate in elections, livelihoods work focusing on the right to a decent standard of living and work on the law to secure disabled people's rights.

Embassies: Republic of Ireland

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date consultation with the Unite trade union on the possible need to reduce the level of locally-engaged staffing in the UK Embassy to the Republic of Ireland commenced; what discussions on *(a)* the provision of redeployment, *(b)* retraining and *(c)* the avoidance of compulsory redundancy ensued; and if he will make a statement. [188030]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Consultation with the Unite trade union on the decision of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) management in London to restructure the UKTI section at our Embassy in Dublin began on 22 January.

Our Embassy and Unite, the union acting on behalf of the Embassy's Local Staff Association, reached a mutually satisfactory agreement on the consequences for staff of the restructuring of the UKTI section on 21 February.

Gaza: Borders

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the opening of all border crossings into Gaza. [202366]

Dr. Howells: We continue to make clear our desire to see the Gaza border crossings opened for both humanitarian and commercial activity. We are working with the UN to secure Israeli agreement to support efforts to facilitate humanitarian access. In addition, on a regular basis my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary engages with the Israeli Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs on issues of the border crossings into Gaza.

International Seabed Authority

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's role is in the International Seabed Authority; and if he will make a statement. [201032]

Meg Munn: The UK has maintained a strong interest in the role of the International Seabed Authority since its inception. The UK is currently a member of the Council and is represented on both the Finance Committee and the Legal and Technical Commission (although appointees to these bodies are in a personal capacity). The UK delegation to the authority consists of officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who liaise closely with experts from the National Oceanography Centre on matters of a technical and scientific nature.

We will continue to take an active interest in the work of the authority as the development of mining activities on the seabed becomes increasingly viable

from a technical and economic standpoint, and will seek to ensure that potential future UK commercial interests are protected whilst at the same time ensuring that environmental concerns are adequately addressed.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Russian Federation counterpart on the UK's recognition of the unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo. [202111]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed Kosovo with his Russian counterpart since the UK's recognition of its independence on 18 February 2008. However, UK officials at all levels have continued to discuss the issue with Russian officials. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Permanent Under-Secretary, Sir Peter Ricketts, discussed Kosovo with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Vladimir Titov, and the First Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrei Denisov, on 24 April during his visit to Moscow.

Malaysia: Military Decorations

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions officials from his Department or members of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals met Malaysian officials to consult them before the Committee decided that veterans could accept but not wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [201115]

Meg Munn: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office met with officials from the Malaysian high commission on several occasions to discuss this issue. The Malaysian authorities were kept fully informed about discussions on the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal, including the Government's decision to allow the medal to be accepted but not worn.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions officials from his Department or members of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals, contacted the Malaysian High Commission or the Committee on the Malaysian authorities to consult them before the Committee decided that veterans could accept but not wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [201116]

Meg Munn: I refer my right hon. Friend to my answer to his previous question (PQ 201115).

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the correspondence between the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals, Ministerial officials and the Malaysian authorities prior to the decision by the Committee that British veterans may accept but not wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [201168]

Meg Munn: There was no correspondence between the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals and the Malaysian authorities.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 526W, on Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals, if he will direct the Committee to reverse its decision on the acceptance and wearing of Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medals by British veterans. [201332]

Meg Munn: The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals has considered the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal thoroughly. We respect its conclusions and do not plan to seek any re-consideration.

Morocco

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 533W, on Morocco, what account he takes of the position taken by the Polisario; if he will hold discussions with the Polisario; and if he will make a statement. [201453]

Dr. Howells: The Government take regular note of the positions of both parties to the ongoing dispute over the status of Western Sahara, as well as those of the UN Secretary-General, his Personal Envoy on Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, and the wider international community.

The UK continues to support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and Peter van Walsum to achieve a negotiated solution that will provide for the self determination of the people of Western Sahara. The UK shares the view of the UN Secretary-General that both parties to the dispute must try to find a way out of the current political impasse though realism and a spirit of compromise.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I do not currently have plans to hold discussions with representatives of the Polisario. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials maintain regular contact with the representatives of the parties to the dispute, including the Polisario.

President of the European Council: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 710W, on President of the European Council: pay, what the timescale is for discussions on the salary and job-related benefits of the President of the European Council. [198910]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Discussions on the identity of the new full-time President, on his/her terms and conditions, and on the new rules of procedure of the European Council will take place at the appropriate

time before he/she takes up the post. All of these decisions will, of course, depend on ratification of the treaty by all 27 member states.

The treaty will only enter into force once every country has ratified, and not before January 2009.

Promoting Prosperity: Progressive Governance Summit

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of the Promoting Prosperity: Progressive Governance Summit. [202090]

Meg Munn: Final figures are not yet available. A working budget was set at £250,000 and we expect the final figure to be within this target.

A clear distinction was maintained between costs falling to the summit and those which fell to the Policy Network, who organised the Progressive Governance conference on the preceding day.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of increased Sudanese government military presence in the Abyei region; and if he will make a statement. [200931]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports of a military build up around Abyei. We plan to raise the resolution of Abyei's status, and the installation of joint integrated units of the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army for the area's protection, during forthcoming high-level contacts.

Sudan: Chad

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Chadian involvement in Darfur; and what representations he has made to President Deby on this issue. [201385]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports that both Sudan and Chad continue to support each other's rebel groups. The Government, together with the UN, the EU and the African Union, have urged both sides to cease all support for armed groups in the region, commit to a peace process and abide by previous ceasefire agreements.

The Dakar Accord, signed in Senegal on 13 March 2008, commits Chad and Sudan to reconciling their differences, normalising relations and contributing to stability in the region. We have made clear to both parties that we expect them to abide by the terms of this agreement.

We regularly raise the issue of Darfur in our bilateral contacts. Staff from our high commission in Yaoundé, accredited to Chad, raised Darfur with the Chadian Deputy Foreign Minister on 9 April 2008.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Sudan on its obligations under the Abyei Protocol. [200930]

Meg Munn: My right. hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development, and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown have all pushed Sudanese Government Ministers to resolve the dispute over Abyei as part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the last six months. Our embassy in Khartoum has raised Abyei regularly in its contacts with the Government of Sudan.

We plan to raise Abyei during forthcoming high-level meetings.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the terms of appointment are of Sir Derek Plumbly as the head of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission in Khartoum in bringing progress to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [201384]

Meg Munn: Sir Derek Plumbly's appointment is unique: having completed his career as a UK diplomat he has been placed on full-time secondment from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) for two years. He was appointed by Sudanese Presidential Decree 39 of 11 February 2008 as chair of the AEC charged with delivering its mandate as defined in Sudanese Presidential Decree 36 of 2005, including monitoring and assessing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation and producing mid-term evaluation reports. He took up his post in Khartoum on 26 March 2008.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what countries have made commitments to the UNAMID force for Darfur. [201381]

Meg Munn: Countries that have offered troops and that are scheduled to deploy with the force of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur include Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gambia, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal and the Netherlands.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether UNAMID the joint AU/UN force for Darfur has a Chapter 7 mandate from the UN; and if he will make a statement. [201382]

Meg Munn: The UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1769 mandates the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) under Chapter VII of the UN Charter in respect of the tasks set out for UNAMID in operative paragraph 15 of that resolution.

The UK was instrumental in securing unanimous adoption of UNSCR 1769 on 31 July 2007.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what countries have made definite commitments of helicopters to UNAMID in Darfur. [201383]

Meg Munn: Ethiopia is contributing four light tactical helicopters to the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur. No other country has made a definite commitment to provide helicopters and we continue to explore with the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations all possible options for the provision of helicopters.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of divisions within the Lord's Resistance Army over the content of the draft peace agreement in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [200928]

Meg Munn: The Government are aware of unverified reports of divisions within the Lord's Resistance Army although reports of the death of International Criminal Court indictee Okot Odhiambo appear to have been erroneous. The Government continue to fully support the Juba Peace Process and hope that the Final Peace Agreement will be signed soon.

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the process is for nominating members of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; and for what reason there is no British nominee for forthcoming elections to the Committee. [201426]

Meg Munn: States parties are invited to nominate one candidate from among their own nationals to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). States parties to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women elect 23 members to the Committee. The convention states that CEDAW nominations should be experts of "high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the convention".

The UK strongly supports CEDAW and believes that an effective treaty monitoring body is one of the best mechanisms to promote and protect the human rights of women around the world. But we need to consider carefully the balance of UK representation across all the UN bodies and this sometimes means making difficult decisions about which bodies to seek election for.

This year we are seeking re-election to the Human Rights Council and the International Court of Justice. These are respectively the UN's principal bodies for the promotion and protection of all human rights, including gender equality and for the maintenance of the international rule of law.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government has had with other governments on the non-publication of the results of the recent presidential election in Zimbabwe. [201658]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown have held regular substantive and frank discussions with African and other leaders about the non-publication of the recent presidential election results and the unacceptable level of political violence in Zimbabwe. In addition our embassies and high commissions are engaging in dialogue with key interlocutors in the region and beyond. We have and will continue to seek out opportunities to raise the issue of the urgent situation in Zimbabwe through and in the margins of multilateral fora including the EU and the UN.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to establish the extent of human rights violations in Zimbabwe. [201655]

Meg Munn: Government officials are carefully monitoring the current situation in Zimbabwe, paying close attention to the extent of human rights violations. Our facts are cross checked and ascertained through direct contact with victims and non-governmental organisations who corroborate statements and facts. As a consequence we can confirm there have been at least 456 victims of post election violence reported to date and we are also aware of hundreds of displaced civilians. We have repeatedly raised our condemnation of these abuses with the Government of Zimbabwe and states in the region.

TREASURY

Adjudicator's Office

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases the Adjudicators Office dealt with in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [202664]

Jane Kennedy: The number of complaints accepted by the Adjudicator's Office for investigation, and the number finalised each year are published in the adjudicator's annual report. Reports for each of the last five years are available on the adjudicator's website: www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk

Adjudicator's Office: Complaints

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints have been received about the Adjudicators Office in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [202662]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for the number of complaints made against the Adjudicator's Office are not available.

Where a complaint is made against the handling of a complaint by the Adjudicator's Office, the adjudicator will attempt to resolve the complaint directly with the complainant. Where agreement cannot be reached, the complainant may refer the matter to the parliamentary and health services ombudsman.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average the Adjudicators Office took to *(a)* respond to a complaint and *(b)* successfully deal with a complaint in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [202663]

Jane Kennedy: During 2007-08 the adjudicator took on average 8.98 working days to make their initial response to a complainant. The average time taken to finalise an investigation during the same period was 23.44 weeks.

Adjudicator's Office: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual budget of the Adjudicators Office is; and if he will make a statement. [202665]

Jane Kennedy: In 2006-07 the cost of the Adjudicator's Office was £2.48 million. This figure was given in written evidence to the Treasury Committee on 15 January 2008 by Mr. Simon Oakes, the head of the Adjudicator's Office. The figure includes an apportionment for accommodation and other services provided directly by HMRC, and is therefore higher than the £1.99 million quoted in the annual report for 2006-07.

Adjudicator's Office: Manpower

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time workers are employed by the Adjudicators Office; and if he will make a statement. [202666]

Jane Kennedy: The Adjudicator's Office currently has 47 members of staff. The breakdown of staff years is given in the following table:

Department	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
HM Revenue and Customs	42	2
Valuation Office Agency	1	0
Insolvency Service	1	0
Office of the Public Guardian	1	0

Bird and Bird

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts were awarded by his Department to Bird and Bird solicitors in each year since 2005; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was. [201642]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury have awarded no contracts to Bird and Bird since 2005.

Car Allowances

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs plans to review the authorised mileage allowances for tax purposes to take account of rising fuel costs. [202376]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 535W. I also refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 306W. The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that the Government would maintain the tax-free mileage allowance (AMAPs) rates and thresholds at current levels.

Crown Estate: Weber Shandwick Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments the Crown Estate made to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payments were made in each case. [202260]

Angela Eagle: The Crown Estate employed Weber Shandwick for corporate PR advice as well as general communications support on a number of property development projects for their central London urban portfolio. The primary focus of Weber Shandwick's work here was community consultation.

The figures are given in the table:

	£000
2002-03	129
2003-04	170
2004-05	178
2005-06	255
2006-07	126

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201748]

Angela Eagle: HMT has been working with Exchequer Partnership, HMT's PFI partner, to implement recommendations from the Carbon Trust and is currently developing further initiatives with both parties.

The energy consumption figures for the Department are:

	£
2006-07	427,472
2005-06	371,854

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based; [200686]

(2) what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91; [200687]

(3) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement; [200688]

(4) what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200689]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury is not responsible for any public sector pension schemes.

Equitable Life

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent producing the report of the Equitable Life inquiry. [200428]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to HM Treasury's Resource Accounts 2003-04 for the total cost of Lord Penrose's inquiry into Equitable Life.

Fuels: Excise Duties

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* the Assets Recovery Agency and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs recovered from those involved in fuel laundering in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [200616]

Angela Eagle: The nature of civil recovery proceedings is such that it is not possible to quantify the exact value of assets recovered in relation to specific forms of criminality, although the Assets Recovery Agency has recovered assets from individuals whose criminality is believed to include fuel smuggling.

In the last three years in Northern Ireland, HMRC has made two cash seizures under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 from persons involved in oil laundering:

	£
2005	[1]8,510.00
2007	[2]3,599.54

[1] Proceeds of fuel laundering.
[2] Proceeds of fuel laundering, with prosecution for laundering plant pending.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many prosecutions for offences relating to fuel laundering there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; [200617]

(2) how many people have been convicted of and received prison sentences for offences relating to fuel laundering in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [200615]

Angela Eagle: In Northern Ireland, in each of the last three years, there have been two prosecutions commenced for offences relating to oils laundering.

Within the same period, there have been three persons who have been convicted of offences relating to oils laundering of which:

Two, convicted in August 2006 and January 2008, have received suspended sentences

One, convicted in January 2008, is awaiting sentencing.

Criminal investigation and prosecution for hydrocarbon oils offences form only one part of HMRC's overall approach to tackling oils fraud, together with the investigation/prosecution of wider oils excise offences, combined with a strong regulatory control system and the civil penalties regime.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what price his Department requires Government Departments to use for one tonne of carbon dioxide when calculating their budgets. [202537]

Angela Eagle: The shadow price of carbon (SPC) is used to value the expected increase or decrease in emissions of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a proposed policy. The SPC reflects the damage costs of climate change caused by each additional tonne of greenhouse gas emitted—converted into carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) for ease of comparison. Supplementary guidance to the Green Book has been published, and the SPC should be used in all policy and project appraisals across government with significant effects on carbon emissions.

The value of the SPC is dependent upon the year the carbon is abated/emitted and rises over time to account for observed (and assumed) inflation, and at 2 per cent. a year to account for rising damage costs from higher greenhouse gas concentrations. The SPC in 2008 is £26.50 per tonne of CO_2e.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17th January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200226]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury provides no such services.

Income Tax: Tax Evasion

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* cases of and *(b)* prosecutions for income tax evasion there have been since 2001. [201616]

Jane Kennedy: Since the creation of the RCPO and HMRC in 2005, 863 cases of direct tax and VAT evasion have been successfully prosecuted and a further 1361 settled under Civil Investigation of Fraud proceedings. Separate figures for income tax evasion are not available. Cases of less serious income tax evasion are resolved through inquiries, but HMRC does not keep records of this.

Prosecutions for income tax evasion prior to April 2005 were carried out by the former Inland Revenue. In total, there were 76 successful direct tax prosecutions between 2001 and 2005.

Details of these are published in the IR annual reports.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be worse off in Beverley and Holderness constituency following the abolition of the 10 pence tax rate ; and if he will make a statement. [201851]

Jane Kennedy: It is not possible to provide reliable estimates of the impact of tax reforms at constituency level.

The removal of the 10p rate is part of a package of reforms announced in Budget 2007 and should not be looked at in isolation. As a result of these reforms four-in-five households in the United Kingdom are better or no worse off than if they had not taken place.

Budget 2008 announced additional measures supporting low income households including increased child tax credit, child benefit and housing benefits that will lift up to a further 250,000 children out of poverty, and one-off payments of £100 to households with someone aged 80 or over and £50 to households with someone aged 60 or over, to be paid alongside the winter fuel payment in 2008-09.

Loans

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on financial intermediaries of financial lenders withdrawing products and lending directly to end customers; [201339]

(2) what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority has made of the effects on the economy of financial lenders withdrawing products from the marketplace. [201340]

Angela Eagle: Budget 2008 presented the Government's assessment of the ongoing disruption in global financial markets, including the effect on housing finance markets, and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08/bud_bud08_index.cfm.

The 2008 Financial Risk Outlook published by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) presents the FSA's consideration of the effects on the economy of a reduced availability of credit, and is available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Library/corporate/Outlook/fro_2008.shtml.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 10 March 2008, transferred from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, on value added tax on school uniforms, PO reference: 7/15810/2008. [202394]

Jane Kennedy: I replied to the hon. Member on 26 April.

Northern Rock

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecast he has made of the size of Northern Rock's mortgage book at the end of *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [201668]

Angela Eagle: During the period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock will be managed on an arms' length, commercial basis. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business updates.

On 31 March 2008, Northern Rock published a business plan that meets the Government's objectives, setting out its strategic priority to reduce the size of its balance sheet by over 50 per cent. to £49 billion by 2011.

Northern Rock: Nationalisation

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received since nationalisation on the operations of Northern Rock bank in *(a)* Denmark, *(b)* the Republic of Ireland and *(c)* Guernsey. [194567]

Angela Eagle: There were a number of representations about the operations in question, including Northern Rock's announcement of 18 March 2008 of their intention to close their Danish branch and maintain their branch in the Republic of Ireland and subsidiary in Guernsey.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to provide greater flexibility for Government Departments, with reference to the use of capital expenditure and operational expenditure spending budgets. [202536]

Yvette Cooper: The Government set separate capital and resource budgets for Departments at spending reviews. Separate resource and capital budgets support the Government's fiscal rules and ensure sustained investment in priorities, including infrastructure, schools and hospitals. The Government have introduced firm three-year spending plans and Departments have flexibility to focus resources within budget limits, subject to the rules set out in Managing Public Money and the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance 2008-09 (please see the links to these documents as follows). The Government have also introduced End Year Flexibility, which enables flexibility across financial years.

Consolidated Budgeting Guidance 2008-09:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/budgeting_classification/psr_bc_consolidated_budgeting.cfm.

Managing Public Money:

http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/governance_risk/psr_managingpublicmoney_index.cfm

Tobacco: Excise Duties

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for a levy on cigarette manufacturers to pay for the removal of discarded cigarette butts. [202486]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review. The Government currently have no plans for such a levy.

DEFRA has recently funded four smoking litter campaigns, organised by Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS), the organisation which runs the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. The Government will continue to encourage local authorities to use their powers in this regard to take action, where appropriate, against those discarding smoking related litter.

JUSTICE

Offenders: Cost of Punishment

10. **Dr. Palmer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will give consideration to charging offenders for the cost of their punishment. [202053]

Mr. Hanson: The 1952 Prison Act requires all expenses incurred in the maintenance of prisons and prisoners to be met from public funds.

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 enables the confiscation of criminally acquired assets. Courts frequently impose compensation orders against defendants under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

In this way prisoners who have funds can be made to contribute directly towards the costs of the criminal justice process, including those costs incurred in their imprisonment.

We are currently looking at how the work and behaviour of prisoners can be better linked to the regime they are under in prison through a prisoner compact. I will be publishing proposals on this shortly.

Reoffending Rates

11. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking through the youth justice system to reduce reoffending rates. [202054]

Mr. Hanson: Between 2000 and 2005 youth re-offending has reduced by 2.5 per cent. We are building on this by developing a cross-government youth crime action plan which will set out work to reduce offending and reoffending by young people. We also continue to work with partners to improve practice and performance. This includes ensuring that the right performance frameworks and indicators are in place and putting in place a delivery plan to reduce youth reoffending.

Postal Voting

12. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the integrity of the postal voting system. [202055]

Bridget Prentice: The Government take the integrity of the electoral process very seriously. Postal voting has proved popular and has helped to boost turnout at elections. However, we must balance accessibility with security, and we have put in place a range of measures to safeguard the security of postal voting. We are not complacent on this issue and will consider what further action may be taken to ensure postal voting is secure.

ClearSprings

13. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with ClearSprings on property in Basildon district. [202056]

Mr. Hanson: ClearSprings are not currently seeking property in Basildon but will consult if further properties are identified as being required.

RAF Coltishall

14. **Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the development of plans for a prison in the former RAF Coltishall. [202057]

Mr. Hanson: A detailed planning application was submitted to North Norfolk district council and Broadland council on 18 April 2008.

The proposal is to provide a new 500 place Category C prison for males on the former RAF Coltishall site by converting some of the existing accommodation and providing some new buildings.

The prison will be in the public sector and run by HM Prison Service. Subject to planning permission, the first offenders are planned to be received in early 2009 and the prison will be fully operational later in the year.

"Governance of Britain"

15. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for electronic consultation on the proposals in the Governance of Britain Green Paper. [202058]

Mr. Wills: We have set up the Governance of Britain website to provide information and updates on proposals in the Green Paper (http://governance.justice.gov.uk). As well as providing regular updates on progress, the site can give people the opportunity to contribute to discussion and debate in online forums and through e-mail.

Young Offenders

16. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the time taken to bring young offenders' cases to court; and what targets he has set for this process. [202059]

Maria Eagle: The Government have a pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders from its 1996 level of 142 days. The 71-day target was first met in 2002, and the most recent monthly average for January 2008 is 62 days.

The average time between offence and first court hearing for all youth defendants whose cases were disposed of in 2007 is estimated at 53 days.

The Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary (CJSSS) initiative is presently being rolled-out to further improve the speed and effectiveness of youth courts.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the operation of youth referral orders. [201318]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

July 2007 data on reconvictions show that the referral order has the lowest reconviction rate, 44 per cent., of all juvenile court imposed sentences. This is against the overall reconviction rate for juvenile community sentences of 70 per cent.

The Youth Justice Board is responsible for the monitoring of the provision and operation of youth justice services. It issued a consultation document on referral orders at the end of last year and is now in the process of drawing up an action plan to address issues raised in the responses.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under the age of 21 years were serving sentences for public protection offences at the latest date for which figures are available. [202024]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of young offenders in prison establishments in England and Wales serving indeterminate and extended sentences for public protection as at end February 2008:

	Under 18s	*Young adults*[1]
Extended sentence for public protection (EPP)	110	330
Indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP)	50	520

[1] Young adults are those aged 18-20 and those 21 year olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult population.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing so numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

17. **Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress is being made in conjunction with the Home Department in securing agreements with other countries to transfer foreign national prisoners to their countries of origin. [202061]

Mr. Hanson: There are 98 Prisoner Transfer Agreements in place. I continue to look for opportunities to develop agreements with countries for the return of their nationals. This would enable them to serve their sentences closer to their families in the country to which they will ultimately be deported.

I recently visited Nigeria to progress a prisoner transfer agreement with them.

Prison Building

18. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made on the prisons building programme. [202062]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have announced a programme to provide an additional 20,000 prison places and increase overall capacity to just over 96,000 by 2014. The programme has already provided 2,475 places, and will provide a further 1,708 places this year.

Prisons: Illegal Commodities

19. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the supply of illegal drugs and mobile telephones in prisons. [202063]

21. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to tackle the availability of illegal drugs in prisons. [202065]

Mr. Hanson: Prisons deploy a comprehensive framework of drug supply reduction measures and have achieved considerable success. Drug use as measured by random mandatory drug tests has dropped by 64 per cent. since 1996-97.

On 11 March 2008 I announced that David Blakey, former inspector of constabulary, has been commissioned to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the measures to disrupt the supply of illicit drugs into prisons. His report will also look into mobile phone use in prisons and their interrelation with drug supply.

The Prison Service is developing an action plan to tackle the problem of mobile phones in prisons. We are working closely with partner agencies to develop and trial new technologies and procedures.

Legal Aid

20. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made on reform of legal aid. [202064]

Bridget Prentice: Our reform programme, set out in "Legal Aid Reform: the Way Ahead" (Cm 6993) in November 2006, designed to deliver a sustainable system of legal aid, is on track. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has successfully delivered the first phase of reform, and has introduced new fixed and graduated fees covering most areas of civil, family and criminal legal aid. Together with the Legal Services Commission, we are considering arrangements for the second phase of reform. The next phase of reform for civil legal aid is set out in the civil route map published on 10 April 2008. The Legal Services Commission is also considering responses to its consultation on best value tendering.

Youth Justice

22. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the priorities of the Youth Justice Unit and other youth justice initiatives. [202067]

Mr. Hanson: Since the creation of the Joint Youth Justice Unit in November 2007, I have had a number of meetings with my right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton (Ed Balls) to discuss youth justice. Our respective Ministers of State also meet one another regularly to discuss these matters. There are also regular meetings between Ministers and the Youth Justice Board to monitor performance and discuss topical issues.

Belmarsh Prison

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether there is a regime at HMP Belmarsh whereby prisoners are granted access to amenities in recognition of good conduct; [201632]

(2) what amenities are available for use by prisoners at HMP Belmarsh. [201633]

Maria Eagle: In common with all other prisons, HMP Belmarsh provides an Incentive and Earned Privileges Scheme (IEP) enabling prisoners to earn additional privileges in recognition of good conduct and compliance with individual sentence planning targets.

Prisoners have access to a range of amenities. These include education facilities, workshops, the gymnasium, the chapel and chapel groups, pool tables, board games, and in-cell television. Prisoners are also able to purchase a range of items for personal use. Under prison rules all prisoners are entitled to receive social visits and to communicate with friends and family either by writing or by telephone.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based; [200681]

(2) what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91; [200682]

(3) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200683]

Bridget Prentice: For the vast majority of staff, information since 2000-01 is contained in the resource accounts for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). These have been produced under differing sets of assumptions (e.g. on longevity) so are not comparable across years. Full details can be found on the civil service pensions website at:

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

Additionally, as a result of the creation of Her Majesty's Courts Service in April 2005, this Department became responsible for staff previously employed by 42 magistrates courts committees (MCCs). With the exception of the Greater London Magistrates Courts Authority who were also part of the civil service pension scheme, each of the remaining 41 areas were members of a Local Government Pension Scheme. The Department took responsibility for all pension liabilities at that time which were estimated to be £268 million. This was reflected in the departmental accounts as a provision. The true value of this provision will only be known when all the returns are received from the Local Government Pension Funds. When that figure becomes clearer, HM Treasury will need to determine the discount rate to be applied.

This Department is also responsible for the administration of the pension scheme for the judiciary. Information since 2003-04 is contained in the resource accounts for the Judicial Pension Scheme. Copies of the resource accounts can be found on the Department's website.

Probation boards participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), administered by various bodies. The MOJ is not responsible for the LGPS. Details of liabilities and contribution rates relevant to probation boards can be found in the annual accounts of the national probation service.

The Legal Services Commission operates two pension schemes providing benefits based on final pensionable salary. The assets are held separately from those of the Commission and the Trustees set contributions having taken advice from the Scheme Actuary. Details can be found in the Commission's annual report.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be from increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by 1 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [200684]

(2) what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its Executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200685]

Bridget Prentice: Under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, increasing the employee contributions will have no impact on the Department's expenditure. There is no direct link between the employee and the Department's contributions so the cost would fall only to the member of staff.

The majority of the information about the value of pensions for the highest paid members of staff is contained in the Remuneration Report which is part of the Department's accounts.

No formal estimates have been made of any effect of a change in the member's contribution under the Judicial Pension Scheme.

Probation boards participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), administered by various bodies. The MOJ is not responsible for the LGPS. Details of liabilities and contribution rates relevant to probation boards can be found in the annual accounts of the national probation service.

The Legal Services Commission operates two pension schemes providing benefits based on final pensionable salary. The assets are held separately from those of the Commission and the Trustees set

contributions having taken advice from the Scheme Actuary. Details can be found in the Commission's annual report.

Domestic Violence: Prosecutions

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prosecutions for offences relating to domestic violence there were in each year since 2003; [201486]

(2) what proportion of prosecutions for offences connected to domestic violence resulted in conviction in each year since 2003. [201487]

Maria Eagle: The data held centrally by my Department on the court proceedings database do not contain information about the circumstances behind each case other than the information that may be gleaned from the offence itself. As a result offences involving an element of domestic violence cannot be identified.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199186]

Maria Eagle: The Department does not have any mechanisms to undertake monitoring of the extent of electronic correspondence (internal or external) or publication distribution. However, the Department and its agencies are taking steps to reduce paper usage by encouraging the take-up of electronic channels, formats and technology wherever possible.

Limitation of Actions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 186W, on A *v.* Hoare, what progress has been made by the Government in their consideration of the implications of the ruling for civil claims. [201962]

Bridget Prentice: Following the decision of the House of Lords in A *v.* Hoare and a number of other cases, the limitation period for actions involving trespass to the person has been brought into line with that for other actions for personal injury, namely three years from when the injury occurred or the date on which the victim knows that he or she has good grounds to sue the defendant for the injury caused, whichever is the later. The court has a discretion to extend this period without limit in appropriate cases.

The decision addresses a significant criticism of the law of limitation made by the Law Commission in their 2001 report Limitation of Actions (Law Com 270). This report recommended a general overhaul of current legislation contained in the Limitation Act 1980. The Government accepted the Law Commission's recommendations in principle, subject to further work in certain areas, in July 2002. This detailed examination of the impact has revealed several issues that need to be resolved. The Government will make a further announcement about the way forward when this work is complete.

Miscarriages of Justice: Compensation

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision there is for appeal against refusal of compensation for wrongful conviction, following the abolition of the discretionary scheme in November 2006. [202658]

Maria Eagle: Applicants who are refused eligibility for compensation under section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 may make written representations to the Secretary of State if they believe that he did not take into account evidence which they had provided when reaching his decision to refuse their application, or if they have fresh evidence. Alternatively it is always open to the applicant to seek leave to judicially review the decision.

Office of the Public Guardian: Powers of Attorney

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information he has on the time taken to administer the registration of lasting powers of attorney by the Public Guardian Office (PGO); and what steps are being taken to improve the performance of the PGO in this respect. [201243]

Bridget Prentice: The Mental Capacity Act 2005 was fully implemented on 1 October 2007. It also introduced new lasting powers of attorney (LPAs) to enable people to appoint someone to make decisions on their behalf in relation to their property and affairs and/or their health and welfare.

In addition, enduring powers of attorney (EPAs) made prior to October 2007 remain valid.

All LPAs must be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) before they can be used. EPAs only need to be registered with the OPG once the person to whom they relate has lost capacity.

The total number of applications to register both types of power of attorney since the new legislation came into force in October has greatly exceeded forecasts. The last three months in particular have seen volumes again increase even more sharply. This has put a strain on resources and led to delays.

It is currently taking staff around six weeks to process and check LPAs to ensure they are valid before other parties can be notified that an application has been made. Applications then enter a statutory waiting period of 42 days during which objections can be made against the application. This is an important safeguard to allow any concerns about the power to be aired. Where no objections are received, staff are registering the power and notifying the applicant within another week.

Steps have been taken to address the delays in this process which exist mainly at the point where applications are received and checked:

Additional staff are being taken on at all levels to deal with processing the higher than expected volumes.

Some staff have already been taken on temporarily in some of the more process-driven areas to increase capacity quickly.

Other staff are currently undergoing training to ensure they can carry out their new roles effectively.

Procuring additional IT equipment to increase the team's capacity to scan and check applications at the front end. The additional equipment has been ordered and is awaiting installation.

As a result of these steps, I expect the OPG to have reached a point where it has reduced the front-end period spent processing and checking applications to two weeks in June. This would be in line with the level of service that we aim to offer our customers and which is tracked as a corporate target as one of the OPG's key performance indicators.

Open Prisons: Employment

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether prisoners in open prisons employed by outside companies are subject to prison rules. [201707]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners that undertake work placements under the supervision of outside companies are subject at all times to prison rules. Placements are supported by memoranda of understanding agreed between the prison, the prisoner and the employer setting out the terms of the arrangement.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released in April 2008 as a result of early release schemes. [202060]

Mr. Hanson: The latest available information relates to February, when there were about 2,500 releases on end of custody licence, 1,000 releases under home detention curfew and 50 prisoners removed from the country under the Early Removal scheme. About 150 prisoners were released on parole.

Prisoners: Children in Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the prison population was in local authority care at some point when under the age of 16 years at the latest date for which figures are available. [201200]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the total number of prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales who were in local authority care at some point when under the age of 16 is not centrally available.

However, a Social Exclusion Unit report "Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners" published in 2002 reported that 27 per cent. of the prison population had been taken into care as a child against an average across the general population of 2 per cent.

Prisoners: Females

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of self-mutilation by women were recorded in each prison in the last five years. [201713]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service does not use the term 'self-mutilation'.

The following table includes all incidents of self-harm by girls and women in any prisons that held them in the period in question. It should be noted that the numbers refer to incidents not people (a number of individuals self-harm on more than one occasion and account for a disproportionate ,number of incidents), and do not reflect the severity of incidents, i.e. include all incidents no matter how minor the self-harm as well as noose/ligature making (even where no injury occurred).

Self-harm incidents[1]

Prison	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Askham Grange	1	0	2	1	0
Brockhill	674	475	278	252	[2]—
Bronzefield	[3]—	274	831	1,165	1,736
Buckley Hall	765	1,082	597	[2]—	[2]—
Bullwood Hall	659	1,065	1,584	305	2
Cookham Wood	158	163	197	144	216
Downview	185	71	362	282	255
Drake Hall	18	23	44	22	56
Durham	317	241	56	[3]—	[3]—
East Sutton Park	0	0	0	0	1
Eastwood Park	789	1,163	2,597	2,147	1992
Edmunds Hill	156	207	[3]—	[2]—	[2]—
Foston Hall	185	614	774	614	1,166
Holloway	958	1,184	1,402	1,475	1,104
Low Newton	381	800	1,129	746	984
Morton Hall	63	50	49	81	60
New Hall	1,689	1,125	1,065	1,266	1,191
Peterborough	[3]—	[3]—	823	1,129	888
Send	78	78	97	200	155
Styal	376	1,061	1,416	1,581	1,312
Winchester	38	14	[3]—	[2]—	[2]—

[1] The numbers of self harm incidents reported here are based on information supplied by prisons through the Prison Service Incident Reporting System (IRS). Self-harm is a high volume incident and is subject to technical and recording problems. Nevertheless, the system provides a sensible indication of the scale of self-harm but the numbers should not be treated as absolute. These figures may differ from previously published figures as some incidents are retrospectively added to IRS.
[2] Prison re-rolled from female to male.
[3] Prison was not open yet.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce suicides in prison. [201819]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all who live and work in prisons. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, drugs, resettlement, leadership and training.

A revised strategy was published in October 2007 with implementation to be completed in every prison by the end of April 2008. This builds on several years of learning from the experiences of prisoners, staff, investigators, inspectors and others, and aims to embed improved suicide prevention and self-harm management methods of working in all areas of prison life. It incorporates the care-planning system for at-risk

prisoners, improved cross-agency information flows, and also reflects long-standing areas of safer custody work such as listener and insider peer supporters, local suicide prevention co-ordinators and working with outside organisations.

Prisons

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what consultative meetings Lord Carter has held as part of his prisons review; [201704]

(2) what written submissions Lord Carter has received as part of his prisons review. [201705]

Maria Eagle: In December the Government accepted Lord Carter of Coles' report 'Securing the Future: proposals for an efficient and sustainable use of custody in England and Wales'. Lord Carter had access to a range of expertise and advice in drawing up his report and consulted a variety of stakeholders.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors to prisons were found to be in possession of illegal drugs in each year since 1997; how many were referred to the police; and what action was taken in respect of those not referred to the police. [200242]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service takes very seriously any attempt to smuggle drugs. The firmest possible action is taken against prisoners and visitors caught supplying drugs. The Offender Management Act 2007 creates a specific criminal offence of smuggling drugs into prisons. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 89W.

A comprehensive framework is in place for dealing with visitors who seek to smuggle drugs through visits. The number of visitors suspected of involvement in drug smuggling incidents and the action taken internally by prisons along with the number of visitors arrested is detailed in the following table.

No record is kept of the number of visitors found to be in possession of illegal drugs but a good indication is the number arrested.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

	1999-2000[1]	*2000-07*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Visitors suspected of smuggling drugs	3,144	3,282	4,030	3,502	3,598	4,283	15,422	3,393
Visitors banned	2,464	2,584	2,941	2,625	2,730	2,092	3,574	2,729
Visitors on closed visits	322	333	627	625	528	880	1,374	494
Incidents involving visitor arrests[2]	735	509	529	405	456	444	440	383

[1] The first year in which visits ban data became available.
[2] Number of reported drug incidents in which a visitor was suspected of involvement and arrested by police. A particular incident may involve more than one arrest.

Data covering the 2007-08 financial year are not yet available.

Prisons: Employment

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what rules are in place governing the employment of prisoners by external companies. [201706]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service has a significant number of contracts and contacts with the private sector that lead to prisoners undertaking work or training within prisons but these do not create legally recognised employee/employer relationships and the prisoners are always under the governors, overall management and supervision.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any prisoners in contracted out prisons are employed by outside companies. [201708]

Maria Eagle: There are no prisoners currently in the 11 contracted prisons who are employed by outside companies either at the prison or while Released On Temporary License (ROTL).

Prisons: Housing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison residential quarters are occupied by prison officers; and if he will make a statement. [201810]

Mr. Hanson: The remaining Prison Service quarters are occupied by Prison Service staff, including prison officers, chaplains and agricultural workers or in a small number of cases, by former prison staff or relatives on compassionate grounds. Of the 480 or so remaining quarters some 285 are occupied by serving prison officers.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison residential quarters occupied by prison officers are planned to be let to avoid the costs that would be incurred in upgrading properties to meet the 2010 Decent Housing Standard; and if he will make a statement. [201818]

Mr. Hanson: Since 1987 the policy has been not to provide prison quarters and to dispose of the existing quarters under the then discount sales scheme or on the open market. Since that time some 12,000 quarters have been sold and some 480 remain. Once these

remaining quarters are declared surplus to requirements and become vacant they are sold on the open market. In the financial year 2008-09 some 50 quarters are anticipated to be sold in this manner.

There are four quarters at HMP Wandsworth however that are not to be sold, on account of their strategic location on the front of the prison wall, and these are due to be transferred on a short to medium-term basis to a housing association or similar body who will source funding, possibly from a housing corporation to undertake the necessary works and then let the properties to local families who are deemed most in need of affordable social housing. A similar arrangement has been in place for some years for residential flats adjacent to Wormwood Scrubs.

Secure Training Centres: Manpower

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in each secure training centre are educated to degree level; and how many have postgraduate qualifications in child care or education. [201711]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of staff working in Hassockfield, Medway and Rainsbrook secure training centres who hold a degree, or have a postgraduate child care or education qualification. Oakhill does not collate the information requested.

Establishment	*Degree*	*Postgraduate child care or education qualification*
Rainsbrook	53	27
Medway	68	33
Oakhill[1]	n/a	n/a
Hassockfield	57	23

[1] Oakhill does not collate statistics on the qualifications of its staff.
Source: Youth Justice Board.

Secure Training Centres: Sick Leave

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sickness rate was for staff in each secure training centre in the latest year for which figures are available. [201710]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the average rate of sickness absence at each secure training centre during the 12 months ending 24 April 2008.

Establishment	*Percentage of staff days lost through sickness absence*
Rainsbrook	5.6
Medway	5.9
Hassockfield	4.2
Oakhill	10.7

Note: Figures provided by the YJB. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Sentencing

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has conducted a race impact assessment of indeterminate sentencing for public protection. [201702]

Mr. Hanson: A consultation on the Criminal Justice Bill: Initial Partial Race Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken in 2003. Additionally the Commission for Racial Equality helped the Home Office identify a list of provisions in the Criminal Justice Act for race equality impact assessment, which did not include indeterminate sentences for public protection. We have not conducted a race assessment impact on these provisions since their implementation. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill contains clauses which will reform public protection sentences.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many black and minority ethnic *(a)* men and *(b)* women have received an indeterminate sentence for public protection in each month since sentencing was introduced. [201703]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the number of prisoners received into prison establishments in England and Wales under an indeterminate sentence for public protection in each month since April 2005:

	Monthly receptions
April and May 2005[1]	10
June 2005	20
July 2005	30
August 2005	40
September 2005	60
October 2005	90
November 2005	70
December 2005	60
January 2006	80
February 2006	100
March 2006	130
April 2006	100
May 2006	120
June 2006	110
July 2006	140
August 2006	140
September 2006	150
October 2006	120
November 2006	180
December 2006	190
January 2007	140
February 2007	150
March 2007	160
April 2007	120
May 2007	170
June 2007	120
July 2007	150
August 2007	120
September 2007	120
October 2007	150
November 2007	140
December 2007	130
January 2008	160
February 2008	140

[1] Combined.

These monthly figures are too small to provide a reliable breakdown by gender and ethnicity, but we can provide the total number of black and minority ethnic men and women currently serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP).

As at the end of February 2008 there were 4,000 offenders serving an IPP in prison establishments in England and Wales, including 820 males and 10 females from black and minority ethnic groups.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. As with any large scale recording system they are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing, so the numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 18 and (ii) 18 to 21 years old were held in the adult prison estate on the latest date for which figures are available. [201646]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of February 2008 there were *(a)* (i) 2,283 males aged under 18 and (ii) 9,112 males aged between 18 to 20 and *(b)* (i) 65 females aged under 18 and (ii) 434 females aged 18 to 20 in all prison establishments in England and Wales.

Juvenile prisoners (those aged under 18) are usually held in designated units and prisons. In exceptional individual circumstances they may be held separately within an adult prison for a short period. Similarly sentenced 18 to 20-year-olds are usually held in designated units and establishments. Current operational practice is to hold unsentenced 18 to 20-year-olds in either an adult prison or in cells designated as prison cells within young offender institutions, and in exceptional circumstances the Secretary of State has the power to direct an 18 to 20-year-old sentenced offender to be held as an adult.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children under 18 years were placed in young offender institutions in each of the last 10 years. [201861]

Mr. Hanson: Young Offender Institutions accommodate sentenced prisoners aged from 15 to 21. The following table gives the number of 15 to 17-year-olds received under immediate custodial sentences into prison establishments in England and Wales between 1997 and 2006.

	Aged 15 to 17 (Male and Female)
1997	5,617
1998	5,585
1999	5,877
2000	5,834
2001	5,903
2002	5,738
2003	4,918
2004	5,172
2005	5,175
2006	5,291

This table is taken from table 7.6 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which can be found at this website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young Offenders: Self-Mutilation

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of self-mutilation by juveniles were recorded in each prison in the last five years. [201714]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service does not use the term 'self-mutilation'. The following table includes all incidents of self-harm by 15 to 17-year-olds in any prisons where they were held in the period in question. It should be noted that the numbers refer to incidents not people (a number of individuals self-harm on more than one occasion and account for a disproportionate number of incidents), and do not reflect the severity of incidents, i.e. include all incidents no matter how minor the self-harm as well as noose/ligature making (even where no injury occurred).

	Self-harm incidents[1]				
Prison	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Ashfield	134	159	132	163	94
Brinsford	16	4	38	62	39
Brockhill	12	1	0	0	0
Bullwood Hall	33	194	149	0	0
Castington	35	27	29	40	24
Cookham Wood	0	0	26	14	27
Downview	0	0	126	20	3
Eastwood Park	45	131	130	114	212
Feltham	41	56	51	39	52
Foston Hall	0	0	0	0	148
High Down	0	0	0	0	2
Hindley	30	13	69	42	15
Hollesley Bay	2	0	0	0	0
Holloway	44	37	0	0	0
Huntercombe	22	26	57	45	62
Lancaster Farms	3	10	28	77	5
Leeds	0	0	0	2	0
New Hall	292	196	155	136	175
Onley	75	1	0	0	0
Parc	25	17	14	19	28
Stoke Heath	31	92	73	83	89
Styal	0	0	0	1	1
Thorn Cross	1	0	0	0	0
Warren Hill	7	19	11	12	11
Wellington	2	10	25	20	10
Wetherby	0	0	49	34	10
Woodhill	0	1	0	0	0

[1]The numbers of self harm incidents reported here are based on information supplied by prisons through the Prison Service incident reporting system (IRS). Self-harm is a high volume incident and is subject to technical and recording problems. Nevertheless, the system provides a sensible indication of the scale of self-harm but the numbers should not be treated as absolute. These figures may differ from previously published figures as some incidents are retrospectively added to IRS.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Bell Pottinger Group

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments his Department and its predecessor made to the Bell Pottinger Group in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202302]

Kevin Brennan: Our financial records show that the Department has not made any payments to the company Bell Pottinger Group in the last five years.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new schools have been commissioned under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and how many of them were commissioned under the private finance initiative model. [202535]

Jim Knight: Approximately 180 new schools in 40 local authority areas have been commissioned following the approval of outline business cases as part of Building Schools for the Future. Of these we expect approximately 125 to be delivered under the private finance initiative.

For the purpose of this question, new schools have been defined as those that are undertaking a minimum of 75 per cent. or greater new build content. The figures provided are approximate because the scope of individual BSF projects and/or procurement methods may change as projects are further developed.

Cadets: Armed Forces

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided to cadet forces in schools in the last three years. [201698]

Jim Knight: The Department does not provide funding for cadet forces in schools. Cadet forces in schools are funded by the Ministry of Defence.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care were reported missing in each of the last 10 years. [201866]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of children looked after by English local authorities who were reported as missing in each of the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 is shown in the following table 1. Where a child was reported missing from his or her agreed placement on more than one occasion during the same year, he or she has been counted only once.

Table 1: Children looked after who were reported missing during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]—England

Number

	2003[5]	*2004[6]*	*2005[6]*	*2006[6]*	*2007[6]*
Children looked after who were reported as missing from their placement[1, 2, 3, 4]	1,200	830	970	1,000	1,100

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Children looked after at any time during the year ending 31 March.
[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[4] A child is recorded with a missing placement if he/she is absent for more than 24 hours from his/her agreed placement. Children who are missing from care are categorised in three types of missing placements:
(a) In Refuge for children at risk, as defined in Section 51 of Children Act 1989, (b) Whereabouts of young people known to social services (but not in refuge) excluding agreed absences from placement such as holidays or planned breaks, (c) Whereabouts unknown.
[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[6] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which since 2004 covered all looked after children.
[7] Historical figures may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[8] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of child care *(a)* places and *(b)* providers were (i) maintained, (ii) private, (iii) voluntary and (iv) independent in (A) Basingstoke constituency, (B) Hampshire and (C) England at the latest date for which figures are available. [200553]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not available in the form requested.

Since 2003, Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. The tables show the number of providers and places registered with Ofsted at 31 March 2007 for Hampshire local authority and England.

Table 1: Number of registered child care providers and places in Hampshire, position at 31 March 2007

	Child minders	*Full day care*	*Out of school day care*
Providers	2,500	300	200
Places	12,000	14,200	9,600

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
2. Excludes the number of child care places in sessional day care and creche day care.

Source:
Ofsted

Table 2: Number of registered child care providers and places in England, position at 31 March 2007

	Child minders	Full day care	Out of school day care
Providers	69,900	13,800	10,600
Places	317,700	598,700	365,400

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
2. Excludes the number of child care places in sessional day care and creche day care.

Source:
Ofsted

Data from the 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey on the number and proportion of child care places in England by the type of ownership are shown in the following table. Data are not available at a local authority level.

Table 3: Number of Ofsted registered places in England, by ownership, 2006

	Full day care	Full day care in children's centres	Sessional	After school clubs	Holiday clubs
Private, voluntary and independent (Number)	477,900	14,300	265,700	200,500	181,200
Private	379,400	7,000	83,000	90,100	97,500
Voluntary	99,700	7,400	183,500	110,700	83,600
Maintained	54,300	21,900	12,800	56,300	71,200
Local authority	30,600	18,800	9,600	31,400	56,700
School/ college	24,000	3,300	3,200	25,300	14,500
Other	14,500	1,700	700	4,500	12,400
Private, voluntary and independent (Percentage)	88	[1]40	95	77	69
Private	70	19	30	35	37
Voluntary	18	[1]20	66	43	32
Maintained	10	58	5	22	27
Local authority	6	50	3	12	21
School/ college	4	[1]9	1	10	5
Other	3	[1]4	<0.5	1	5

[1] Low base size, figures should be treated as an indicative guide only.

The following table shows the number and proportion of child care providers in England by the type of ownership, from the 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. Data are not available at a local authority level.

Table 4: Ownership of child care providers in England, 2006

	Full day care	Full day care in children's centres	Sessional	After school clubs	Holiday clubs
Private, voluntary or independent (Number)	11,300	550	9,300	5,900	4,600
Private	8,300	400	2,700	3,400	2,300
Voluntary	3,000	150	6,600	2,500	2,300
Maintained	1,300	200	400	1,600	1,500

Table 4: Ownership of child care providers in England, 2006

	Full day care	Full day care in children's centres	Sessional	After school clubs	Holiday clubs
Local authority	700	150	300	800	1,200
School/ college	600	50	100	800	300
Other	300	50	[1]—	100	300
Private, voluntary or independent (Percentage)	89	36	96	77	72
Private	65	17	27	33	36
Voluntary	24	20	68	44	36
Maintained	10	57	5	22	25
Local authority	5	50	4	11	19
School/ college	5	8	1	11	5
Other	2	6	<0.5	1	4

[1] Fewer than 50 providers; data have not been included due to too small a base size.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of paid childcare staff in those settings for which his Department has responsibility were dismissed from employment in each year since 1997. [201907]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the dismissal from employment of paid child care staff is not collected or held centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Children: Daycare

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places there are in each local authority; what estimate he has made of the level of demand for places in each authority; and if he will make a statement. [202146]

Beverley Hughes: Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration of child care providers. Quarterly reports of the numbers of registered child care providers and places available in each top tier local authority can be accessed from the Ofsted website, via the following link:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/pQrtal/site/Internet/menuitem.eace3f09a603f6d9c3172a8a08c08a0c/?vgnextoid=067489433118e010VgnVCM1000003507640aRCRD

Analysis of demand for child care formed a significant element of the child care sufficiency assessments which local authorities were required to complete by 31 March 2008. Local authorities are now in a position to compare the local supply of, and demand for, childcare places, and to work to fill gaps between the two so as to satisfy their new duty to secure sufficient child care for working parents.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of his

Department's budget was allocated directly by his Department and not devolved to schools or local authorities in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [200981]

Jim Knight: The proportion of DCSF's budget allocated directly by the Department and not devolved to schools or local authorities in 2007-08 is 18 per cent.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* most recent annual budget, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* staff complement is of each of his Department's (i) advisory bodies, (ii) tribunals and (iii) corporations. [201182]

Kevin Brennan: The following answer outlines the *(a)* most recent annual budget, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* staff complement of the each of the Department's (i) advisory bodies, (ii) corporations and (iii) tribunals.

(i) Advisory Bodies

Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy

(a) The annual net budget is £0.4 million.

(b) The Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy provides advice to Government and monitors the success of its strategy towards reducing the rate of teenage conceptions, with the specific aim of halving the rate of conceptions among under 18s by 2010, and increasing the participation of teenage parents in education, employment and training to reduce risk of their long-term social exclusion.

(c) The body does not employ any staff.

Teachers' TV board of governors

(a) Net annual budget is £0.2 million.

(b) The Board provides open accountability about the plans and performance of Teachers TV to the channel's audience, stakeholders and to the public. The Board upholds the editorial independence of Teachers TV; ensures that the channel supplier adopts the best practices of a UK public service broadcaster; incentivises the supplier to fulfil the Departments strategic aims; holds the supplier to account for the public funds it receives via an annual performance review; monitors the contractual relationship with the supplier and ensures that Teachers TV develops so that it meets the needs of its audience.

(c) The board currently employs 1.9 Staff FTE.

Children's Plan Expert Group

(a) Net annual budget is £0.1 million.

(b) There are three expert groups (ages 0-7, 8-13, and 14-19) whose remit will be to look at services and policies affecting children, young people and families and to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on how best to deliver his long-term objectives to:

Improve the health and well-being of children and young people

Safeguard the young and vulnerable

Close the gap in educational achievement between those from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers

'Raise our game' on raising standards

Increase post-16 participation and attainment

Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success

(c) There were five staff employed for three months of the year

Information Standards Board

(a) Net annual budget for £0.01 million.

(b) The Information Standards Board (ISB) for education, skills and children's services in England is the system-wide authority for all information and data standards. Its mission is to facilitate information sharing across the system; agree information standards to aid front line delivery; improve efficiency, reduce costs and minimise bureaucracy. The ISB is designated as an Internal Advisory Committee, but has ministerial authority to make recommendations and approve decisions on behalf of the system.

(c) The board does not employ staff

Talent Taskforce

(a) The net annual budget is £1.84 million.

(b) The Talent and Enterprise Taskforce is based in the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) but reports through to the cross-government Talent and Enterprise Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister underlining his personal commitment to the talent agenda. Central to the role of the Taskforce is promoting the imperative to unlock talent. The projects we undertake should aim to provide vehicles to communicate and bring that narrative alive. There is already a great wealth of constructive activity happening. The Taskforce aim is to recognise and build on that. Though based in Government, the Taskforce is outward facing. Our goal is to engage a wide range of influential networks, organizations and individuals across the educational, business, community and voluntary sectors and to add value.

(c) The taskforce currently employs five Staff FTE.

National Council for Educational Excellence

(a) The net annual budget is £0.03 million.

(b) The National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE) has a remit to provide advice to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families about strategy and measures to achieve world-class education performance for all children and young people from birth to age 19.

The Council is focused on providing advice and mobilising all sectors to provide the support to increase standards. Council members will act as advocates and champions to transform expectations and aspirations for the education system, and to rally the teaching profession, businesses, the third sector, universities and colleges, schools, and parents to raise standards year on year.

(c) The council employs four staff.

Ministerial Taskforce for Home Access to Technology for Children

(a) The taskforce does not have a dedicated budget.

(b) In January 2007 Minister of State Jim Knight announced the setting up of a Home Access taskforce to advise Government of possible solutions for universal home access for all school age children in England. Representatives on the taskforce come from industry, the third sector and teaching profession. Working together in partnership with industry and the third sector is the only way we can hope to deliver and sustain universal access.

(c) The taskforce does not employ any staff.

(ii) Corporations

General Teachers Council of England

(a) Net annual budget of £0.7 million.

(b) The General Teaching Council for England is the independent professional body for teaching in England.

It works for children, through teachers, in the interests of the public. It is committed to making sure young people have the best possible standards of learning and achievement.

It keeps a register of qualified teachers in England and sets out and enforces standards for the teaching profession in the interests of the public.

It provides advice to government and other agencies on important issues that affect the quality of teaching and learning.

It works with teachers to make sure its advice is based on practical experience and reliable research.

It brings together teachers and other partners with an interest in the education service, including parents, governors and employers.

(c) The staff complement is 206.

(iii) Tribunals

Currently, the Department is not responsible for any tribunals.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200019]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not held centrally. Information on individual management units conducting their own opinion polls of either the public or of staff can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* internal and *(b)* external reviews his Department is conducting; and if he will make a statement. [201069]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is collating the information requested. When I have had the opportunity to consider this information I shall write to the hon. Member and place a copy of that reply in the House Library.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the principal objectives and targets of each directorate within his Department are; and if he will make a statement. [201057]

Kevin Brennan: There are four main directorates in my Department. Each directorate contributes to departmental strategic objectives (DSOs), to ensure cross-directorate working. Primarily, the Children and Families Directorate contributes to DSOs 1 and 2; the Schools Directorate contributes to DSOs 3 and 4; and the Young People's Directorate contributes to DSOs 5 and 6. Full details of DSOs and their underpinning indicators, which were announced in the 2007 comprehensive spending review, are available on the DCSF website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/dsoindicators/

Dyslexia

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what representations his Department has received on the proposal that at least one teacher in every school should have the nationally recognised specialist qualification accredited by the British Dyslexia Association for teachers to assess and support dyslexic children; [201804]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the results of the Xtraordinary People No to Failure report on the rate of dyslexia-specific learning difficulties among failing children; and if he will make a statement; [201805]

(3) what provision his Department has made for *(a)* training dyslexia specialists and *(b)* specialist dyslexia teaching support within personalised learning plans; [201806]

(4) what provision has been made for specialist dyslexia teaching within the *(a)* Every Child a Reader, *(b)* Every Child a Writer and *(c)* Every Child Counts programme; [201807]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the efficacy of the reading recovery scheme for dyslexic children. [201808]

Kevin Brennan: We have received a number of representations that at least one teacher in every school should have a specialist dyslexia qualification.

All local authorities and schools must have regard to the special educational needs code of practice which provides advice on their statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs. Children with dyslexia should have their needs identified and support put in place.

To identify and promote best practice, we are working with dyslexia organisations on the No to Failure project, through which children in trailblazer schools are screened and specialist teaching provided to those identified at risk of dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties. We are supporting this project with just over £1 million funding over three years.

The recently published report from No to Failure says a significant proportion of participating children not achieving expected levels of attainment are at risk of dyslexia or other specific learning difficulties. However, the report does not indicate how many had already been identified with SEN, nor does it evaluate the impact of specialist teaching on children's progression. We are looking forward to seeing the final report later this year, which we understand will contain such an evaluation.

Through No to Failure, we have commissioned Dr. Chris Singleton to summarise published research on the impact of specialist dyslexia teaching. We will consider whether and how we should promote specialist dyslexia teaching as best practice in the light of evidence of its impact.

All schools receive a school development grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. This can include professional development for teachers intending to be dyslexia specialists. It is however for individual teachers and their schools to determine training and development needs and how best to address them. This would also hold true for support staff. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain conditions, to provide specific training and development in SEN.

To help those working in schools with identifying and supporting children with dyslexia, last October we launched the Inclusion Development Programme, which is offering professional development in key areas of SEN starting with training on communication difficulties, including dyslexia. The Inclusion Development Programme materials were developed in close consultation with dyslexia organisations.

Our commitment through the Primary and Secondary national strategies is to ensure Quality First teaching for all. The Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts initiatives are focused on providing additional intervention for the 5 per cent. of children facing the most difficulties with reading and mathematics. They

do not provide a specific focus on provision for children with dyslexia. Every Child a Reader is being rolled out to reach 30,000 children a year by 2010-11.

Every Child Counts is currently in a research phase and will be informed by the Williams review of the teaching of mathematics that is due to be published in June this year. The intention is that Every Child Counts will be aimed at children whose attainment in the early stages of mathematics shows they are not making expected progress for their age.

Every Child a Writer is a new programme announced at the end of last year. The intention—as stated in our Children's Plan—is that this will offer support later in primary school than Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts and reach a greater number of pupils. Further announcements will be made about Every Child a Writer in due course.

Evaluations of the Every Child a Reader pilot—which provides Reading Recovery for children from among those having the most difficulties in learning to read—were published in 2006 and 2007. These are available on

www.everychildareader.org.uk.

The evaluation of Every Child a Reader in London in 2005-06 showed that 87 per cent. of children who had received Reading Recovery were considered to have made average to exceptional progress in reading comprehension. However, these evaluations did not include looking at the efficacy of Reading Recovery for children with dyslexia.

The SEN code of practice says that

"effective management, school ethos and the learning environment, curricular, pastoral and discipline arrangements can help prevent some special educational needs arising, and minimise others" (paragraph 5:18).

Where whole school arrangements for teaching and learning are not addressing a child's learning difficulties, schools have a statutory duty to do their best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs. It follows that if a child with dyslexia is not benefiting from their participation in any or all of the three initiatives, the school must make additional or different arrangements to address the child's special educational needs.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of those in post-16 education were in receipt of the education maintenance allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [201685]

Jim Knight: In the academic year 2006/07, 46 per cent. of 16-19 year old learners in full time education received education maintenance allowance.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of eligible pupils gained no A* to C graded GCSEs in 2007, broken down by *(a)* multiple deprivation decile and *(b)* local authority area. [201669]

Jim Knight: For statistics based on school location the available information can be found in the Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07' available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml.

Within this Statistical First Release:

(a) Table 21 shows the GCSE and equivalent achievement of pupils by the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) decile of the school location.

(b) Table 18 shows the GCSE and equivalent achievement of pupils by local authority area.

Information on pupils gaining no A* to C graded GCSEs can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

For statistics based on pupil residence, further information on GCSE and equivalent attainment of pupils by the IDACI decile can be found in the additional tables attached to the Statistical First Release 'National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07' available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils in Suffolk were entered for fewer than five GCSEs in each of the last five years. [201499]

Jim Knight: The information is given in the following tables:

Suffolk

	Percentage of pupils entered for fewer than five GCSEs	*Number of pupils entered for fewer than five GCSEs*
2002/03	10.8	864
2003/04	8.3	723
2004/05	7.4	592
2005/06	7.1	565
2006/07	10.4	823

	Percentage of pupils entered for fewer than five GCSEs (or equivalent)*	*Number of pupils entered for fewer than five GCSEs (or equivalent*)*
2002/03	7.8	674
2003/04	4.8	384
2004/05	4.4	352
2005/06	4.7	375
2006/07	5.1	402

England

	Percentage of pupils entered for fewer than five GCSEs	*Number of pupils entered for fewer than five GCSEs (or equivalent*)*
2002/03	11.8	75,116
2003/04	8.5	49,956
2004/05	9.2	53,883
2005/06	9.8	58,185
2006/07	12.3	73,351

	Percentage of pupils entered for fewer than five GCSEs (or equivalent*)	Number of pupils entered for fewer than five GCSEs (or equivalent*)
2002/03	8.7	55,602
2003/04	6.8	43,391
2004/05	6.8	43,138
2005/06	6.7	43,751
2006/07	5.7	34,044

* Figures from 2003/04 onwards include equivalencies. Figures for 2002/03 relate to GCSEs and GNVQs only.

Notes:

1. From 2004/05 onwards figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Figures in 2002/03 and 2003/04 relate to 15-year-olds pupils (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2002).
2. The figures relate to pupils attending all schools.

Grammar Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on selection by ability in grammar schools; and if he will make a statement. [201405]

Jim Knight: We do not support selection by high academic ability and do not wish to see it extended. Legislation prevents admission authorities from introducing new selection of this type. Grammar schools already selecting in this way at the beginning of the 1997/98 academic year may continue to do so with decisions on whether individual grammar schools should continue to do so being made at a local level. Mechanisms are in place to allow parents to vote to remove selection at a grammar school.

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals went on to higher education upon leaving school in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [192631]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

This information is currently not available.

Mandate Communications

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments his Department made to *(a)* Mandate Communications and *(b)* AS Biss & Co in each of the last five years; on what dates; for what purpose the payment was made in each case; and what ongoing financial commitment exists. [202301]

Kevin Brennan: Our financial records show that the Department has not made any payments to the companies Mandate Communications or AS Biss in the last five years.

Midwives: Training

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what training in nutrition *(a)* midwives and *(b)* health visitors are required to undertake. [200566]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

Setting standards and curricula for health professional training is the responsibility of the statutory and professional bodies. Nutritional training is a component of the standard training for midwives and health visitors set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. This can found at

www.nmc-uk.org.

Access to training is affected by a number of factors such as the availability of funding, whether staff can be released, the availability of appropriate training interventions, mentors and assessors. It would not be practical for the centre to be prescriptive on this.

Playgrounds: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department plans to allocate to improving playgrounds in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; what cost/benefit analysis has been undertaken of this expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [201072]

Kevin Brennan: In response to consistent feedback received from children, young people and their families that there are not enough safe and stimulating places for them to play, we have made the biggest ever investment in play by Government. A total of £235 million over the next three years (2008-09 to 2010-11) will be made available to all local authorities to provide a range of innovative play facilities, accessible to all children. A total of 30 'Pathfinder' authorities will each receive on average £2 million capital and a substantial amount of revenue funding to develop public play areas and deliver 30 adventure playgrounds by 2011. By 2010 all the remaining authorities will each receive on average £1 million capital and a contribution towards their revenue costs to deliver our aim of developing up to 3,500 public play areas by 2011. The development of all sites will be shaped by local children, parents and communities to help meet the clear demand from the public for improved play facilities that our Children's Plan consultations revealed.

To inform a full cost-benefit analysis of the impact of this expenditure, my Department is currently piloting and testing, via the Pathfinder programme, innovative approaches to promoting and supporting the play areas we are developing. Through the evaluation of this programme, we will identify the impact of our capital investment as well as identifying the most cost-effective way of implementing further national roll-outs of adventure playgrounds and play areas beyond 2010-11.

In advance of the publication of "Fair Play: A Consultation on the Play Strategy" my Department completed a provisional value for money calculation expressed as the required reduction in future obesity costs resulting from play to offset the costs of the proposed spending. Other unquantified benefits such as attainment, emotional development and reduction in antisocial behaviour would only add to the attractiveness of our capital investment programme.

Pre-School Education

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the occupancy rate of nursery places provided in children's centres in each local authority; and if he will make a statement. [202138]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start Children's Centres serving the most disadvantaged communities in England must provide integrated early learning and full day care as part of their core services while centres serving less disadvantaged communities may provide integrated early learning and day care places where local demand is not being met by existing, good quality providers.

The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the number of places and vacancies in full day care providers based in Sure Start Children's Centres in England. The 2006 survey estimated that there were 37,700 Ofsted registered places and 6,600 vacancies for children in these providers; therefore 82 per cent. of places were occupied.

Data are not available at a local authority level.

Pupils: Bus Services

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on arrangements for free bus transport to and from schools for pupils aged *(a)* under nine, *(b)* nine to 11 and *(c)* over 11 years (i) in the Isle of Wight, (ii) in Hampshire and (iii) in England. [201986]

Jim Knight: Home to School transport is not arranged around the three age groups quoted in the question. local authorities (LAs) have to make transport arrangements where they consider it 'necessary', to secure a child's attendance at school. Where they consider transport 'necessary', it must be free of charge. LAs have wide discretion in deciding whether transport is necessary, but they must provide free home to school transport for pupils of compulsory school age who are attending their nearest suitable school, provided that the school is beyond the statutory walking distances (two miles for pupils below the age of eight years and three miles for those aged eight years and over).

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 extended entitlement to free school travel for pupils entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of maximum working tax credit. Since September 2007, primary school pupils aged over eight have been entitled to free travel to their nearest school where this is more than two miles from their home. At secondary age (11 to 16), pupils attending one of their three nearest schools that is between two and six miles from the child's home, and those attending their nearest school preferred on grounds of religion or belief, between two and 15 miles, will be entitled to free transport from September 2008.

Pupils: Hearing Impaired

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of school pupils who are *(a)* hearing impaired and *(b)* have a special educational needs statement on grounds of hearing impairment. [202074]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the following link

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

to Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2007". Table 9 gives the available information on type of special educational need for pupils with a Statement or at School Action Plus. Copies of this publication have been placed in the House Libraries.

School Improvement and Targets Unit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the annual cost of the School Improvement and Targets Unit was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201436]

Jim Knight: The outturn running costs for School Improvement Division (formerly School Improvement and Targets Unit) for 2007-08 were £1,968,158.

During the last financial year, the principal responsibilities of staff in this division were:

the publication of national Achievement and Attainment Tables and associated data systems;

the New Relationship with Schools;

all aspects of policy relating to school attainment and progression targets;

school interventions and policies relating to schools placed in Ofsted categories of concern;

general school improvement policy and strategies; and

administrative support.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which non-grammar schools have special dispensation to operate a partial system of selection by ability based on grandfathered rights; and if he will make a statement. [201090]

Jim Knight: Legislation prevents admission authorities from introducing new selection by high academic ability. Schools that selected a proportion of their pupils in this way at the beginning of the 1997-98 school year may continue to do so but they must publish a notice each year to inform parents who may wish to exercise their right to object to the Adjudicator.

We do not formally collect information about which schools select a proportion of their pupils in this way. However the Department is aware of 40 such schools and they are shown in the following table.

	LEA	*School*
1	Barnet	Mill Hill School
2	Bexley	Erith School
3	Birmingham	Ninestiles School
4	Buckinghamshire	Waddesdon C of E School
5	Croydon	Edenham High School

	LEA	School
6		Riddlesdown High School
7		Archbishop Lanfranc
8		Shirley High School
9	Dorset	Budmouth Technology College
10	Dudley	Old Swinford Hospital School
11	Havering	Coopers' Company and Coborn
12	Hertfordshire	Queens' School
13		St. Clement Danes
14		Parmiter's School
15		Dame Alice Owen
16		Rickmansworth
17		Watford Boys
18		Watford Girls
19	Kent	Homewood School
20		Archbishop's
21		Chaucer
22		Westlands
23	Kingston	Holy Cross
24	Lancashire	Ripley St. Thomas CE High
25	Lincolnshire	Spilsbury King Edward VI
26	Liverpool	Archbishop Blanch CE High School
27		King David High School
28		St. Edward's College
29		St. Hilda's CE High School
30		St. Margaret's CE High School
31	Peterborough	Kings School
32	Southampton	St. Anne's Convent School
33	Southend	St. Bernard's High School
34		St. Thomas More High School for Boys
35	Surrey	Roseberry Girls School
36	Wandsworth	Burntwood
37		Ernest Bevin
38		Chestnut Grove
39		Graveney
40	Warwickshire	Ashlawn School

Schools: Construction

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been commissioned outside the Building Schools for the Future programme in each of the last three years; and how many of them were commissioned under the private finance initiative model. [202534]

Jim Knight: The Department does not commission school buildings itself except for academies; such decisions are usually taken by the local authority or school owner.

However, for new academies, traditionally procured by the Department, the following numbers of Funding Agreements were issued in each of the last three years: 15 in 2005-06, 21 in 2006-07, and 17 in 2007-08. A further 14 Funding Agreements were issued for academies to be delivered through the National Framework.

Since 2005-06, the Department's private finance initiative resources have been allocated to Building Schools for the Future.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new schools went over their construction budget in each of the last five years. [202548]

Jim Knight: The Department does not usually commission schools itself, except for academies; such information would, therefore, be held locally.

In the case of the academies programme, 16 of the 42 completed projects have exceeded their agreed construction budget. In a further six projects, final accounts have not yet been received.

To date, 13 schools have been built as part of Building Schools for the Future and none of these received additional funding from central Government over and above the budgetary allocation agreed with the local authority for its group of schools.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what public spending on schools in England *(a)* was in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08 and *(b)* is planned to be in (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10 and (C) 2010-11, in real terms using 2006-07 prices; and if he will make a statement. [201099]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not yet available. The Department is currently updating this information for its 2008 departmental annual report due to be published in May. I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as the information is available and place a copy of my response in the House Library.

Secondary Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many eligible pupils did not obtain level 4 in a combination of reading, writing and mathematics tests at Key Stage 2 in 2007, broken down by local authority area. [201682]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Specialised Diplomas: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the cost to his Department of delivering the new diplomas in each year from 2008-09 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [200989]

Jim Knight: We have invested £45 million in 2007-08 to training the workforce and supporting consortia across the country to deliver diplomas.

In addition, in 2008-09 schools will receive approximately £1,000 per student doing diplomas in KS4, to reflect the additional costs of delivering these courses.

Schools and colleges delivering diplomas post-16 will receive funding for their diploma students at rates set

by the LSC funding methodology for 2008/09. The funding rates for diplomas paid to schools and colleges will vary by line and level of learning, the additional learning options chosen by the student, factors particular to the school or college in which it is delivered including disadvantage, area costs and success rates, and funding for additional support learners may need.

An illustrative example of funding that a school sixth form would receive over two years for a student on a diploma, A level and Edexcel national diploma vocational programme respectively, and excluding institutional and individual learner factors, is shown as follows:

	Funding (£)
Advanced Diploma	8,914
A levels (3 AS, 3 A2)	7,383
Edexcel National Diploma	8,561

The full details of LSC funding rates are published at

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/strategic-overview.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers had the equivalent of at least three A levels at grade B or better upon entering the profession in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201130]

Jim Knight: Data from the TDA's Performance Profiles database show that a minimum of 26 per cent. of all undergraduate mainstream primary Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees who gained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in 2005/06 and entered a teaching post in a maintained schools within six months of gaining QTS had the equivalent of at least three A-levels at grade B or better upon entering their ITT course. The corresponding figure for secondary is 14 per cent.

It is optional for HEIs to complete the tariff score for undergraduate trainees on the Performance Profiles database and approximately 30 per cent. of primary trainees and 42 per cent. of secondary trainees had unknown tariffs.

Undergraduate trainees represent a small proportion of trainees entering teaching posts, only 37 per cent. for primary and 5 per cent. for secondary, the remainder were postgraduate trainees, whose A-level scores are not collected.

The A-level scores for Employment Based ITT trainees are also not collected centrally.

Teachers: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms are in place for the removal of teachers deemed to be incompetent in the classroom; and what role the General Teaching Council has in such procedures. [202545]

Jim Knight: We have introduced a revised performance management regime to support the on-going professional development of teachers. Classroom observations are a part of this process, and where significant weaknesses have been identified which performance management has been unable to address, teachers become subject to a school's capability procedures. The point at which this happens is determined locally.

The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2003 require governing bodies to establish procedures for the regulation of the conduct and discipline of staff and for dealing with lack of capability on the part of staff and set out the processes governing bodies, in their role as employers, should follow in relation to the dismissal of staff.

Where an employer dismisses a teacher on grounds of competency, they are required to notify the GTCE so the GTCE can consider—following investigation by them—action to remove the teacher from their register—which would effectively bar them from teaching in maintained schools. They should also notify the GTCE of instances where a teacher has resigned in circumstances where they would have been dismissed for that reason or consideration would have been given to their dismissal had they remained in post.

Teachers: Television

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments the Teachers' TV Board of Governors has made to *(a)* Hanover Communications and *(b)* Open Road in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202300]

Kevin Brennan: The Teachers TV Board is in the process of making one payment of £934.13 (inclusive of VAT) to Hanover Communications for handling media around the publication of the board's 2007 annual report. No other payments have been made to Hanover Communications in the last five years. The Teachers TV Board has not made any payments to Open Road Communications.

Teachers: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers aged under 60 years left the profession in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [192898]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of qualified teachers who are aged under 60 recorded as being out of service in March 2006, whose last recorded service was in the local authority maintained sector in Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region and England, broken down by the year that they left. The figures exclude teachers that have retired. It is unknown whether they have left service permanently.

The total provided is different to that provided to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 20 March, *Official Report*, column 1433W, because the series commences from 1996 not 1997 and excludes the first three months of 2006.

The information provided is from the Database of Teacher Records which is maintained on behalf of the Department for pension administration purposes.

Qualified teachers employed in local authority maintained schools aged under 60 years who have left service[1] by March 2006, coverage: Yorkshire and the Humber and England, calendar years 1996 to 2005

	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
1996	460	6,090
1997	520	6,790
1998	600	7,940
1999	640	8,370
2000	740	9,980
2001	900	10,970
2002	1,000	12,150
2003	1,060	11,630
2004	1,250	14,520
2005	2,070	20,510
Total	9,420	110,680

[1] Teacher is no longer in service in the English maintained schools sector and is not receiving a pension. May be teaching elsewhere outside of the English maintained sectos.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants there were in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [201895]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of regular teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in each local authority in Yorkshire and The Humber Government Office Region and in England, in each January, 2003 to 2007.

Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasional) and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region and England, January 2003 to 2007

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary
Regular teachers[1]										
England	197,430	206,870	196,640	211,000	196,270	215,060	198,190	216,290	197,100	216,850
Yorkshire and the Humber	20,630	21,150	20,380	21,980	20,220	22,520	20,430	22,540	20,370	22,470
Kingston-Upon-Hull, City of	1,080	970	1,070	960	1,070	970	1,020	990	1,020	1,030
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,200	1,370	1,170	1,390	1,200	1,460	1,220	1,510	1,240	1,490
North East Lincolnshire	700	710	680	710	660	710	680	680	660	680
North Lincolnshire	620	610	620	680	600	670	590	720	590	680
North Yorkshire	2,250	2,630	2,200	2,750	2,200	2,760	2,210	2,820	2,210	2,820
York	640	680	630	700	620	700	620	700	650	700
Barnsley	880	780	840	770	840	830	860	860	870	870
Doncaster	1,240	1,420	1,230	1,460	1,220	1,470	1,240	1,360	1,220	1,310
Rotherham	1,100	1,270	1,070	1,380	1,070	1,420	1,010	1,390	1,000	1,400
Sheffield	1,950	1,870	1,900	1,940	1,880	1,960	1,940	1,980	1,900	1,810
Bradford	2,260	2,170	2,240	2,220	2,260	2,240	2,310	2,150	2,340	2,290
Calderdale	900	970	900	990	900	1,040	910	1,060	900	1,080
Kirklees	1,640	1,580	1,670	1,620	1,640	1,660	1,760	1,710	1,730	1,710
Leeds	2,830	2,770	2,860	3,040	2,810	3,180	2,770	3,170	2,790	3,170
Wakefield	1,330	1,350	1,300	1,390	1,280	1,440	1,270	1,440	1,250	1,440
Teaching assistants[2]										
England	82,280	22,260	89,160	25,340	97,910	29,980	99,040	33,490	105,770	35,650
Yorkshire and the Humber	9,850	2,980	10,360	3,320	11,250	3,690	11,300	4,030	11,850	4,020
Kingston-Upon-Hull, City of	340	150	370	190	520	210	510	240	570	240
East Riding of Yorkshire	380	170	470	200	580	230	630	250	680	290
North East Lincolnshire	360	160	380	170	380	190	380	210	390	210
North Lincolnshire	270	120	330	130	340	150	370	160	350	160
North Yorkshire	810	280	950	320	1,060	330	1,180	380	1,260	400

Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasional) and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region and England, January 2003 to 2007

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary	Nursery/ Primary	Secondary
York	240	60	260	70	290	90	330	100	330	110
Barnsley	490	120	480	130	530	120	450	150	490	160
Doncaster	520	160	560	180	650	200	520	200	610	200
Rotherham	540	130	620	170	640	200	560	210	590	220
Sheffield	830	190	880	210	950	280	1,080	330	1,060	250
Bradford	1,260	390	1,230	430	1,280	460	1,220	520	1,270	520
Calderdale	580	130	610	150	630	170	620	160	660	170
Kirklees	770	230	860	260	950	280	1,050	270	1,070	250
Leeds	1,770	520	1,710	540	1,790	590	1,640	640	1,750	590
Wakefield	690	160	650	180	670	190	760	210	770	240

[1] Source: DCSF annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies (618g)
[2] Source: DCSF School Census
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Teaching Methods

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of lessons in each school year were set in the latest period for which figures are available.[1] [202073]

Jim Knight: Ofsted collects data on the use of streaming and setting in lessons observed during inspections, the latest period for which their data indicate the proportion of lessons in each school year which are set by ability is 2002/03.

Lessons set as observed by Ofsted, 2002/03

	Percentage
Year 7	28
Year 8	38
Year 9	43
Key Stage 3	36
Year 10	37
Year 11	40
Key Stage 4	39
Overall Secondary	38

Until 2002/03, Ofsted recorded lessons observed during inspections as being set, streamed, mixed ability or otherwise organised. For clarity, 'setting' is the term used to describe the organisation of pupils in classes on the basis of their prior attainment in the particular subject being taught. The term 'banding', which is very similar to streaming, is used when the decision as to which pupils are included or not in a class is based on the prior attainment in a range of subjects.

From 2003/04 the distinction between streaming and setting was removed and Ofsted now record data on whether classes they observe are mixed ability or set/streamed. They no longer record data on setting alone. It is therefore not possible to provide data on the proportion of lessons which are set for the period from 2003/04 onwards.

Young Offenders: Police Custody

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged *(a)* 13, *(b)* 14, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 17 and *(f)* under 18 years have been held in police cells under Operation Safeguard. [201862]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

Since October 2006 the Government have used significant numbers of police cells provided through Operation Safeguard to help manage pressure in the prison population. Juveniles are not held under Operation Safeguard itself although over this period our records indicate that 36 juveniles were held overnight on an ad hoc basis. It is not possible to break this figure down by age without incurring disproportionate cost. The Government's policy is that juveniles should be held overnight in police cells only in the most exceptional circumstances. It does not happen routinely.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Rented Housing: Private Sector

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many households were living in private rented accommodation during each of the last three years. [201983]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the number of households in England living in private rented accommodation in each of the last three years are:

	Number of households in private rented accommodation in England
2005	2,385,000
2006	2,488,000
2007	2,595,000

Source:
Labour Force Survey

These figures were published by the Department in December 2007 in 'Survey of English Housing Preliminary Results: 2006-07'.

1. *[Official Report, 10 July 2008, Vol. 478, c. 11MC.]*

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Water Charges: Churches

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) for what reasons exemptions and reliefs on water charges for churches and charities will be removed in 2010; and if he will make a statement; [201152]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on churches and charities of the removal of exemptions and reliefs on water charges in 2010; and if he will make a statement; [201153]

(3) what representations he has received on the removal of exemptions and reliefs on water charges for churches and charities in 2010; [201154]

(4) what discussions he has had with *(a)* Ofwat, *(b)* the Consumer Council for Water and *(c)* other water industry representatives on the removal of exemptions and reliefs on water charges for churches and charities in 2010; [201155]

(5) if he will review the decision to remove exemptions and reliefs on water charges for churches and charities in 2010. [201156]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

In 2000 the Secretary of State issued guidance on matters to be taken into account by Ofwat, the industry's economic regulator, in agreeing companies' charges schemes, including charging non-household users that are not businesses. These include places of worship, community facilities, charities and voluntary bodies. The guidance stated that those making similar demands on a service should be charged on the same basis. It also made clear that where premises impose customer-related costs in line with or lower than those of typical households, they should be able to benefit from tariffs which reflect their small demand on the water system.

Churches were traditionally zero rated under the rateable value system of charging, meaning that they did not have to pay surface water drainage (SWD) charges. However the replacement of rateable value charges for SWD with a site area based charge means that churches will be required to pay surface water drainage charges and will no longer benefit from the cross subsidy that resulted from the rateable value system.

Ofwat reviewed companies' approaches to charging for SWD in 2003. In RD35/03, 'Surface water drainage—charging policy' (September 2003), Ofwat concluded that charging according to site area was the best method of charging for SWD. Ofwat recommended that water companies consider introducing site area-based charging for SWD—particularly for non-household customers where the process is simpler to implement. However Ofwat also noted that, given that set up and administration costs of introducing this method were considerable, and would vary depending on customer base, it was for individual companies to decide if the benefits of implementing site area SWD charging outweighed the costs.

For sewerage customers served by United Utilities the site area based SWD charge was introduced in 2007-08 for new and substantially altered properties. In 2008-09 it is being introduced for all non-household properties, including churches. The move to site area charging will be phased in over three years to reduce the year-on-year impact on those customers who will see an increase in their charges.

The most cost reflective way of charging non-household customers for SWD is by reference to the customer's site area, because the larger the site area, the more surface water will drain from it. SWD charges based on site area are only payable for areas which drain (directly or indirectly) into public sewers. Chargeable areas will be adjusted to take account of large grassy or gravelled areas, such as church yards or burial grounds that do not drain into a public sewer. Surface area based charging offers strong incentives to customers to reduce surface water drainage costs they impose on companies, for example by installing soakaways. Charges can therefore be mitigated by customers by installing such devices. The approach aligns with the Government's water strategy for fair, affordable and cost reflective water and sewerage charges which incentivise environmentally responsible behaviour.

Companies are obliged under their licences to ensure that charges are neither unduly preferential or unduly discriminatory between groups of customers. Ofwat therefore considers that churches and other places of worship should be treated no differently to other non-household customers.

Ofwat has held discussions with the Consumer Council for Water which supports the proposal for all companies to charge surface water drainage by site area.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 30 April 2008

SCOTLAND

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department provides *(a)* tax-free benefits and *(b)* other allowances for its staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197011]

David Cairns: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice and are able to access any initiatives operated by their parent Departments.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201766]

David Cairns: Details of the percentage of questions answered within deadlines by the Scotland Office for the last six months are shown in the following table:

	Percentage	
	Ordinary written questions answered within five working days	*Named day questions answered on the day requested*
October 2007	55	100
November 2007	36	78
December 2007	23	0
January 2008	57	100
February 2008	48	n/a[1]
March 2008	40	n/a[1]

[1] No named day questions were asked.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality: Legislation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will publish the responses to the consultation on the Government's proposals for a single equality bill. [196983]

Barbara Follett: The Government intends to publish the responses from organisations to its consultation on proposals for a Single Equality Bill at the same time as it publishes its own full and formal response to this consultation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199198]

Mr. Woodward: There are no mechanisms in place to monitor the extent to which the Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically.

Firearms: Licensing

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people with convictions for scheduled offences were granted a licence to carry a personal firearm in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [202257]

Paul Goggins: The chief constable has advised me that the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Mobile Phones Recycling

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will make it their policy to introduce mobile phone recycling on the Parliamentary Estate. [201259]

Nick Harvey: Arrangements for the secure disposal of mobile phones provided for use by House staff are in place. This does not currently cover their recycling. The House authorities will review these arrangements with particular reference to the recent waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) regulations and the responsibilities that suppliers now have. No arrangements are currently in place for phones belonging to Members and their staff but the aforementioned regulations will apply.

The House already seeks to maximise re-use and recycling generally as a commitment in its waste policy. There are already facilities available for recycling batteries, including those used in mobile phones.

WALES

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department provides *(a)* tax-free benefits and *(b)* other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [198769]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Wales Office staff are able to apply for an advance of salary (which is then deducted at source and is therefore tax-efficient) to purchase bicycles and safety equipment.

The Wales Office does not have any non-departmental public bodies.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account she took of the First Report of the Environmental Audit Committee, Session 2007-08, on Are Biofuels Sustainable?, HC 76-I before requesting the Renewable Fuels Agency to carry out a review of biofuels. [201270]

Jim Fitzpatrick: New evidence has emerged in recent months on the net greenhouse gas benefits of certain types of biofuels. There is currently little consensus on much of this new evidence and there are widely diverging views on the sustainability of current and future biofuels targets. The Environmental Audit Committee's report is an example of this evidence and the report both contributed to the Secretary of State's decision to call the review and forms part of the evidence that will be used in the production of the review. The Government's response to the Environmental Audit Committee's report has been submitted to that Committee.

Bird and Bird

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contracts were awarded by her Department to Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 2005; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was. [201638]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following contracts have been awarded by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency to Bird and Bird Solicitors since 2005:

Contract description	*Contract start date/award date*	*Contract end date*	*Contract value (exc. VAT)*
MOT computerisation contract management	17 March 2005	31 March 2007	337,747.93
Legal services for Test Lane Refreshment Programme	13 July 2005	31 August 2008	99,887.25
Ad-hoc strategic legal advice	14 June 2006	19 March 2008	7,813.84
Legal Review of Transport for London Low Emission Zone Contract	20 January 2007	19 July 2007	31,112.95
Commercial Data Exploitation Advice	1 February 2007	31July 2007	33,491.70

In addition work has been placed with Bird and Bird Solicitors by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) via OGC Buying Solution's legal services framework. This was to represent DVLA in relation to a dispute on the procurement of a Storage Area Network and associated equipment. The value of this work was:

	£
2005-06	34,645
2006-07	21,478
2007-08	1,122

The central Department placed a one off order with Bird and Bird Solicitors in January 2006 for professional charges associated with a DVO e-Learning system. The value of this work was £1,969.

Bus Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with local authorities on maintaining and extending the provision of free or subsidised bus shelters funded by advertising companies; and what assessment her Department has made of the role of well-positioned, well-maintained bus shelters in encouraging passengers to make use of local bus services. [201276]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been no discussions between this Department and local authorities on the specific issue of maintaining and extending the provision of free or subsidised bus shelters funded by advertising companies.

However, waiting for a bus, train or tram is accepted as part of a public transport journey so infrastructure provision at the point of boarding or alighting will affect user experience and demand. The physical waiting environment includes shelters, vehicle access, information provision, and the safety and security of the location.

The Department has commissioned a detailed research project into a wide spectrum of factors that influence bus patronage, with particular reference to 'softer' factors, including the quality of the waiting environment, and the perceived safety of the walk to that point.

The results are due by the end of this year, and will be used to inform operators and local authorities about the most effective packages of measures to increase patronage, including what value passengers place on the waiting or interchange environment.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities in England have withdrawn concessionary fare schemes offering reduced fares for people with disabilities travelling before 9.30 am in the last 12 months. [202018]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are responsible for the statutory minimum concession that all travel concession authorities (TCAs) are required to provide. From 1 April this year, the statutory entitlement to concessionary travel is improved to give residents of England aged 60 or over and eligible disabled people free off-peak bus travel in any part of England. Off-peak is defined in legislation as 9.30 am to 11 pm Monday to Friday and at all times at weekends and bank holidays. TCAs have discretion to enhance its statutory minimum

at their own expense. They can give residents concessionary travel beyond the statutory times or extend eligibility to other groups of people. Any decision to change these discretionary elements is a matter for individual TCAs and, as such, no record is kept centrally of such changes.

As part of our monitoring of concessionary travel, the Department intends to carry out a survey of TCAs during summer 2008 to establish the range of local enhancements available at end of December 2007 and at end of June 2008. This will report in the autumn and provide an indication of the discretionary concessions that were withdrawn between these two dates and since the previous survey carried out in the summer of 2006.

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments the Civil Aviation Authority made to *(a)* Waterfront Public Affairs, *(b)* Mandate Communications and *(c)* AS Biss in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202273]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Civil Aviation Authority has advised that payments over the last five years to these companies were as follows:

Waterfront Public Affairs

For parliamentary monitoring services.

	£
2002-03	84,335.44
2003-04	50,967.57
2004-05	39,188.22
2005-06	111,360.73
2006-07	197,868.23
Total	483,720.19

AS Biss/Mandate

For various services including press-cutting, advertisements, market research, editorial, public affairs and political consultancy.

	£
2002-03	115,474.93
2003-04	152,778.19
2004-05	86,367.45
2005-06	179,549.90
2006-07	169,883.59
Total	704,054.06

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments the Northern Lighthouse Board made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202275]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Grayling Political Strategy has a contract with the Northern Lighthouse Board to provide the following services to highlight issues directly or indirectly affecting the board.

1. provide full information, intelligence and advisory service covering the proceedings of (i) the Scottish Parliament, its Committees, the Scottish Government and the political parties in Scotland; (ii) the UK Parliament, its Committees, the UK Government and the political parties in UK; and (iii) the European Parliament, its Committees, and the European Commission;

2. maintain a watching brief on issues directly or indirectly affecting the board in the Isle of Man by monitoring activities at Tynwald and the Manx Government; and

3. monitor all UK National and Scottish and Manx newspapers and the *Edinburgh Gazette*.

The contract payment arrangement is for a flat rate monthly fee. Total payments over the last five years, including payments to Strategy in Scotland who were taken over by Grayling Political Strategy, were as follows:

	£
2003-04	18,000
2004-05	20,017.50
2005-06	20,538.75
2006-07	32,180
2007-08	50,398

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if she will make a statement. [197626]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does offer a cycle to work scheme to its employees.

This scheme also enables other employers to purchase cycles and loan them to employees to support them in taking greener journeys to work.

The Department also offers interest free loans up to £1,000 for the purchase of bikes to cycle to work, which is akin to the interest free loans for train season tickets. In addition, a commuter centre is available to staff to encourage greener commuting. The same tax rules apply to benefits in kind provided to employees of Government Departments as to any other employee.

The Civil Aviation Authority, which is a public corporation sponsored by the Department also offers the scheme to its employees. However, none of the Department's non-departmental public bodies offer a cycle to work scheme to its employees. It is for each organisation to determine its own policy with regard to offering the scheme and encouraging greener travel.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what her Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201749]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport engaged the Carbon Trust to conduct a Carbon Management Programme on the high impact areas of our estate. This was published in December 2007 and identifies a wide

range of measures that can be undertaken to reduce energy consumption. The department is currently developing programmes to implement these recommendations in addition to a number of local initiatives that are already in place.

The most recent period for which we have energy costs is 2006-07. Expenditure on energy was £4,866,886 during this period and for the preceding 12 months was £5,321,606.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by her in the last six months. [201763]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The figures requested are set out in the table as follows.

	Ordinary Written		*Named-day*	
	Total questions due for answer	*Percentage answered within agreed deadlines*	*Total questions due for answer*	*Percentage answered on due date*
October	245	85	102	88
November	411	56	74	66
December	202	70	53	52
January	316	67	163	54
February	350	56	88	62
March	326	66	96	48

A breakdown of these figures by each hon. Member is not available.

Driving Tests

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many candidates were examined at each test centre in England in the latest year for which figures are available. [202362]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The table has been placed in the Libraries of the House which shows the number of practical tests of all types taken at each DSA test centre in England from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. These figures identify the number of tests taken, not the number of candidates. This will include individuals who have taken the test on multiple occasions at the same or different test centres.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely number of candidates presenting at each test centre in England in each year to 2012. [202363]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) forecasts demand for tests nationally for three years ahead. These figures are published in the agency's business plan for 2008-09. DSA does not make forecasts of test demand for each driving test centre. Candidates are free to choose at which centre they prefer to take their test.

Driving: Standards

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her definition is of most customers as used in the Driving Standards Agency Code of Practice on Driving Consultations, Annex B, paragraph 3. [202360]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* Most customers is defined as more than 50 per cent. of candidates wanting access to a test centre in order to take their driving test.

Driving: Working Hours

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what exemptions from the road transport working time directive are to be allowed. [201387]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Regulation on drivers' hours (Regulation (EC) No 561/2006) provides a number of automatic exemptions and national derogations. The national derogations granted in Great Britain (GB) are set out in the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1819).

European Directive 2002/15/EC on the working time of mobile workers (drivers, crew and other travelling staff) operating on vehicles subject to the European Regulation on drivers' hours was implemented in GB by the Road Transport (Working Time) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/639). The Regulations do not apply to mobile workers who only occasionally work in-scope of the rules and self-employed drivers (as defined in the Regulations).

Copies of the legislation are available in the Libraries of the House.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which her Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199194]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We monitor items such as Freedom of Information requests; parliamentary questions; letters from MPs and the public addressed to Ministers; and emails received in email addresses on the Department's website. We do not however carry out systematic quantitative monitoring of general electronic communication from individual email addresses in the department.

Our general aim in correspondence and publishing, both internally and externally, is to reduce paper consumption and to communicate electronically whenever it is both possible and appropriate. The volume of items we publish electronically on the Department's website has grown significantly in recent years.

Motorcycles: Training

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that riders of motorcycles with an engine capacity of under 50cc have undertaken compulsory basic training. [200915]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A motorcycle with an engine capacity of under 50cc is classed as a moped. Learner moped riders must undertake a compulsory basic training course before they can ride on the road. This is a legal requirement specified in the Road Traffic Acts. Once a course has been successfully completed, a rider is issued with a certificate. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency will update the rear of the persons photocard licence on successful completion of the course to show code 122. Any persons riding on the road who ignore this training requirement are committing an offence and are liable to prosecution.

Public Transport: Concessions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction of the nationwide concessionary fare scheme on *(a)* the level of eligibility set by local authorities and *(b)* the level of access by disabled people. [202493]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The criteria for eligibility for the statutory minimum concession are set out in statute supported by revised guidance recently issued by the Department.

The Transport Act 2000 (or for those resident in London, the Greater London Authority Act 1999) makes provision for concessionary travel to a wide range of disabled people. Categories of disability were drawn up following representation from local government and support from the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. The people eligible are as follows:

any person who:

is blind or partially sighted;

is profoundly or severely deaf;

is without speech;

has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to walk;

does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms;

has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning or;

would, if he/she applied for a grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his/her application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

Travel concession authorities (TCAs) continue to be responsible for administering concessionary travel schemes for their residents, assessing eligibility and issuing passes. They remain able to offer travel concessions on a more generous basis than that specified as the statutory minimum.

As the England-wide statutory minimum was introduced on 1 April it is too soon to assess the effect of its introduction, but as part of our monitoring of concessionary travel the Department intends to carry out a survey of TCAs during summer 2008. This may include details of which authorities choose to offer more generous concessions and is due to report in the autumn.

Roads: Cameras

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the maximum penalty which can be imposed for vandalism of a road safety camera is. [201554]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Vandalism to safety cameras constitutes criminal damage, the maximum penalty for which is 10 years' imprisonment.

Roads: Satellite Navigation Systems

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consult the producers of satellite navigation systems to discuss the display of routes unsuitable for motorised vehicles. [202568]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Responsibility for recommending routes via satellite navigation systems lies with system providers. However, the Department for Transport is supporting a Network Management Board sub-group that aims to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to consider how best to address the issue of inappropriate routeing. The Department has also conducted initial public consultation as part of a review of route guidance system issues.

Rolling Stock: Thameslink

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the new carriages for Thameslink announced on 9th April 2008 are in addition to the new carriages announced in July in the White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway. [202209]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Some of the new vehicles for Thameslink are a component of the 1,300 new vehicles announced in July 2007 in the White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway' which committed a high level output statement (HLOS) for the railways. However, Thameslink and the HLOS have overlapping timescales. The HLOS vehicles are required to be delivered by March 2014. The final complete fleet of new Thameslink vehicles are required to be in service by December 2015.

By December 2015, the full 1,100 vehicles will be in use on Thameslink routes. This represents a net increase in the number of vehicles on the network, over and above HLOS commitments. The precise number of net, additional vehicles resulting from the Thameslink programme will depend on the contracted delivery profile of the new Thameslink vehicles.

Taylor Nelson Sofres

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value of contracts awarded to Taylor Nelson Sofres by her Department was in each year since 1997. [201661]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002. Since this date the Department has not awarded any contracts to Taylor Nelson Sofres.

Traffic Management Act 2004

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what considerations underlay the decisions to introduce permits under the Traffic Management Act 2004; what baseline data she plans to collect in respect of these permits; and whether she plans to review the operation of these permits. [201262]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government wanted to provide local authorities with additional tools for managing works on their road network and minimising unnecessary disruption to road users. Permit schemes can accomplish this by enabling traffic managers to positively control all works activities carried out on their network by both utility companies and highway authorities, in the interests of road users.

The Department is committed to reviewing permit schemes and we will do this after the first full year of scheme operation. This review will provide evidence to determine whether permit schemes are delivering the expected benefits and whether permit fee levels are appropriate.

The data required to establish the baseline in respect to permit schemes will be taken from the noticing information exchanged between highway authorities and statutory undertakers, together with additional information recorded on highway authorities' local registers.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what specific matters her Department's Environment Directorate is examining in pursuance of their sub-objective to tackle the climate change impacts of transport through putting a price on carbon. [201274]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The functions of the Environment and International Directorate of the Department for Transport include the management of the Department's programme on climate change and the delivery of certain, but not all, individual policy elements of that programme. Some specific matters which bear upon the price of carbon in relation to transport are:

fiscal measures such as fuel duty, vehicle excise duty, and company car tax (taxation policy is a matter for the Chancellor);

mandatory European targets for new car CO_2 emissions, the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation, European biofuel regulations;

inclusion of transport in emissions trading schemes at both global and regional levels e.g. through the International Maritime Organisation, the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the European Union;

taking account of the shadow price of carbon in transport appraisal and decision making.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Students

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 920-21W, on council tax, whether she *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make changes to the operation of student council tax exemption for grant calculation purposes. [202516]

John Healey: I announced the 2008-09 and provisional 2009-10 and 2010-11 settlements on the 24 January 2008. The taxbase projections used in the calculation of these settlements reflect a change to use the average of student council tax exemption numbers from counts as at 31 May 2007 and 8 October 2007, rather than use a count solely as at 8 October 2007. The full calculation is shown in the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2008-09 (HC262) approved by the House on 4 February 2008.

Councillors: Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records her Department holds of the local authorities which have introduced pensions for councillors. [202602]

John Healey: Central Government does not collect this information.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if she will make a statement. [197627]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not currently offer a Cycle to Work scheme to its employees. Nor does it offer any other tax-free benefits in kind to encourage green commuting. The same tax rules apply to benefits in kind provided to employees of Government Departments as to any other employee.

Information on whether any of the Department's non-departmental public bodies operate a Cycle to Work scheme is not held centrally.

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status is of the DigiTV Project originally sponsored by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [202619]

John Healey: The DigiTV Project began in 2002 as part of the then ODPM's Local eGovernment Programme. Although this programme and the Department's involvement ended in April 2006, DigiTV continues under the ownership of Kirklees council. It is currently being used to deliver local services via digital television and mobile phones to citizens in 74 local authority areas.

Electronic Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much she has allocated to the London Connects e-Government regional partnerships since inception. [202635]

John Healey: From 2002-06, the London Connects regional partnership received £1,510,000 in Local e-Government Programme capital funding.

Energy Performance Certificates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Valuation Office Agency has to use data from energy performance certificates on non-domestic dwellings to inform non-domestic rates valuations. [202590]

John Healey: None.

Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the original datasets used to calculate the geographical barriers sub-domain in the English Indices of Deprivation 2000, including data for each electoral ward of *(a)* road distance to a general practitioner surgery, *(b)* road distance to a general store or supermarket, *(c)* road distance to a primary school and *(d)* road distance to a post office or sub post office. [202462]

John Healey: This Department does not hold the underlying data that were used in the construction of the English Indices of Deprivation 2000.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average dwelling size of new homes was *(a)* in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* in each previous year for which figures are available; and whether such figures are broken down by (i) social and (ii) private sector dwellings. [194413]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not have information on dwelling size but do have data on numbers of bedrooms. The following table shows the proportions of new build completions in England by number of bedrooms for private dwellings and registered social landlord dwellings. The information is presented as proportions not absolute numbers because number of bedrooms has been collected centrally for only about half of the new build activity since 2001-02.

Proportion of dwellings by tenure and number of bedrooms

Percentage of all dwellings

	Financial year								
All dwellings	*1991-92*	*1992-93*	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*
Private enterprise									
1 bedroom	15	13	11	9	8	6	5	5	5
2 bedrooms	31	31	30	29	28	26	24	24	24
3 bedrooms	31	33	35	36	36	37	38	37	36
4 or more bedrooms	23	22	24	26	28	31	32	35	35
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Registered social landlords									
1 bedroom	39	34	25	21	20	21	19	18	20
2 bedrooms	41	40	45	45	45	44	42	44	44
3 bedrooms	18	23	28	30	31	32	33	33	32
4 or more bedrooms	2	3	3	4	4	4	6	5	5
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All tenures									
1 bedroom	19	17	14	12	11	8	7	7	7
2 bedrooms	32	33	33	32	32	29	27	27	26
3 bedrooms	29	31	33	34	35	36	38	36	35
4 or more bedroom	20	19	19	22	23	26	28	30	32
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Percentage of all dwellings

	Financial year						
All dwellings	*2000-01*	*2001-02*[1]	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1]	*2005-06*[1]	*2006-07*[1]
Private Enterprise							
1 bedroom	5	6	6	8	9	9	9

Percentage of all dwellings

All dwellings	2000-01	2001-02[1]	2002-03[1]	Financial year 2003-04[1]	2004-05[1]	2005-06[1]	2006-07[1]
2 bedrooms	24	24	28	32	37	41	40
3 bedrooms	35	31	30	29	29	28	28
4 or more bedrooms	36	39	36	32	25	22	22
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Registered social landlords							
1 bedroom	19	17	17	14	18	19	24
2 bedrooms	46	49	45	54	52	56	56
3 bedrooms	30	28	29	25	24	21	17
4 or more bedrooms	5	5	9	7	5	4	3
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All tenures							
1 bedroom	7	7	6	8	10	10	11
2 bedrooms	27	25	29	33	38	42	42
3 bedrooms	34	31	30	29	28	27	27
4 or more bedroom	32	37	34	30	23	21	20
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

[1] Figures for 2001-02 onwards are based on only half of the new build activity.

Housing: Disabled

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Enfield Borough Council spent on improving homes for disabled people in each of the last three years. [202858]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 928-29W.

Housing: Mortgages

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings she has had with the Local Government Association to discuss the potential effects of mortgage foreclosures on local housing demand. [201412]

Caroline Flint: I have had no such meetings with the Local Government Association but I have asked discussions to be held at official level with regard to the potential effects of mortgage foreclosures on local housing demand.

Licensed Premises: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 509-10W, on valuation: licensed premises, if she will place an updated copy of Volume 5 of the Rating Manual in the Library. [202478]

John Healey: Work on updating The Rating Manual section on public houses, licensed restaurants and wine bars has not yet been completed. When the work is complete it will be published on the Valuation Office Agency's website to replace the existing section.

Local Authorities: Pay

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what pay scales for chief executives of local authorities are rated by the Audit Commission as poor; [202687]

(2) what pay scales for chief executives of local authorities are judged by the Audit Commission to be fair. [202697]

John Healey: It is a matter for the individual councils to determine the pay for their chief executives.

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have yet to be *(a)* commenced and *(b)* implemented. [202650]

John Healey: Section 245 of the Act sets out which provisions were commenced at Royal Assent on 30 October 2007, and which were commenced on 30 December 2007. All remaining provisions have or will be commenced by order. There have been five such orders to date which apply to England. The note annexed to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Commencement No 5 and Transitional, Saving and Transitory Provision) Order 2008 (S.I. No. 2008/917) sets out the provisions which have so far been commenced. The planned timetable for implementing relevant policies is set out in the latest version of the White Paper implementation plan which was published on 1 November 2007. A further version will be published shortly.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the long-term solvency of the Local Government Pension Scheme following the March 2007 valuation. [202610]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 66-67W.

National Muslim Women's Advisory Group

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what issues have been discussed in her meetings with the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group; and what steps have been taken as a result of these meetings. [201434]

Hazel Blears: The first meeting with the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group was held in November 2007, prior to the launch which was on 31 January 2008. It was an introductory meeting for both the Secretary of State and the advisory group members. This meeting set the context for the group's involvement and identified what key areas and issues the group would be interested to get involved in over the coming year. It was agreed that it was important to ensure that Muslim women received positive media and were engaging with Muslim women from all parts of society. As a result Communities and Local Government has organised media training and will be offering the group leadership training in May 2008.

The second meeting was held in March 2008. This meeting provided the Secretary of State with an update of the challenges and issues faced by the group in their regions. The group also agreed the terms of reference and an operating structure that they would work within. The group identified the priority areas they wanted to work on and are in the process of working up an action plan for 2008-09.

In order for the group to produce a robust and challenging action plan, a facilitated away day has been organised in May 2008. The action plan will set out key objectives that the group will aim to achieve in their first year, details of which will be released in May 2008.

Non-Domestic Rates: Appeals

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* Government departments and *(b)* executive agencies have made a business rates challenge or appeal to the (i) Valuation Office Agency and (ii) Valuation Tribunal Service in the last 12 months. [202552]

John Healey: Valuation officers and valuation tribunals do not specifically identify proposals or appeals as coming from Government Departments or executive agencies but simply record the name of the person or body making the proposal/appeal. The information requested cannot, therefore, be provided without disproportionate cost.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for work on the 2010 business rates revaluation in England and Wales. [202597]

John Healey: The Antecedent Valuation Date of 1 April 2008 has already been set by regulation and the Valuation Office Agency has started work on assessing new rateable values. Draft 2010 rateable values will be published in the autumn of 2009, with final valuations being published on 1 April 2010. The timetable for Wales is the responsibility of Welsh Ministers.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose and function is of the QE2 Conference Centre's meeting matrix database. [203047]

Mr. Dhanda: The Queen Elizabeth II conference centre (QEIICC) is one of London's leading venues for professional meetings and events. The QEIICC is continuously looking to offer its clients additional means of support and flexibility to organise meetings as efficiently as possible. Meeting Matrix provides both the event planner and the conference centre with invaluable tools that create simple and accurate diagrams of the conference rooms customised to clients' requirements.

With the addition of the Meeting Matrix space rendering package, a meeting planner will also be able to view their selected conference spaces in 3D. This facility will enable the QEIICC's commercial team to more easily convert inquiries into confirmed bookings.

Regional Planning and Development: Greenbelt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local planning authorities the Government Office for the South East has instructed to review their green belt boundaries as part of their local development framework. [202596]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government Office for the South East (GOSE) has not instructed any local planning authorities to review their Green Belt boundaries as part of their local development framework. The Government's policy on green belts is set out in planning policy guidance note 2 (PPG2): Green Belts. PPG2 advises that up-to-date approved boundaries in development plans are essential, to provide certainty as to where green belt policies do and do not apply and to enable the proper consideration of future development options. When drawing green belt boundaries in development plans local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development.

Social Rented Housing: Disabled

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what means of redress are available to social housing tenants who have

parents, partners or children with disabilities whose needs are not being accommodated by their social landlord. [202502]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 places a duty on all public authorities, when carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to promote disability equality. They have to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people.

Social housing tenants who live with disabled relatives, and are living in a property which does not meet their needs can apply for a transfer or request that their current home be adapted to meet their needs. Under the statutory allocations framework, housing authorities must give 'reasonable preference' to existing tenants who need to move on medical or welfare grounds. Local authorities are responsible for arranging the provision of adaptation works or additional facilities. Disabled social tenants can apply for the disabled facilities grant (DFG), a mandatory entitlement across all tenures, to help fund the provision of adaptations or additional facilities. Local authorities have the discretion to decide whether to means test the DFG for their tenants or to make an increased payment for the adaptation.

Where the local authority decides that the tenant does not have any priority under their allocations scheme for a transfer, the tenant has the right to request a review of that decision. Secure tenants should refer any complaint to the local government ombudsman, and housing association tenants to the housing ombudsman service. In addition, they can contact their local councillor about their concerns.

Standards Board for England: Complaints

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 705W, on Standards Board for England: complaints, how many complaints were made to the Standards Board in 2007-08; and how many were upheld *(a)* in whole or *(b)* in part. [199285]

Mr. Dhanda: In total, 3,547 complaints were received by the Standards Board for England in 2007-08. Of these, 524 were referred for investigation after initial assessment by the Standards Board for England. Of these 524, 285 were sent to local authority monitoring officers for them to investigate, 223 were dealt with by the Standards Board's ethical standards officer. The remaining 16 cases have yet to be allocated.

Of the 223 cases, the ethical standards officers' investigations found that in 200 cases the complaint was unfounded or that no action was required. 10 were found to be sufficiently serious to be referred to the Adjudication Panel for determination. Of these 10, in one case there was found to be no breach, two cases resulted in a suspension for up to six months and the remaining seven cases resulted in disqualifications for periods between six months and five years.

The remaining 15 cases were referred to the monitoring officer of the relevant local authority.

Information on matters referred to councils, including cases referred for investigation, is not held centrally.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's file (a) CPO 2/25 Lord Braine of Wheatley's Partial Birth Abortion (Prohibition) Bill and (b) CPO 2/29 David Amess's Abortion (Amendment) Bill; and if he will make a statement. [201964]

Dawn Primarolo: To release the information contained in these files would entail manually checking and redacting each of the files which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Bird and Bird

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts were awarded by his Department to Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 2005; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was. [201641]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

Blood

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of blood were collected by the National Blood Service in England and Wales in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08, broken down by local authority area. [200636]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table gives the number of units of blood collected in England and north Wales.

	Units of blood collected[1] (million)
2003-04	2,296
2004-05	2,155
2005-06	2,039
2006-07	1,971
2007-08	1,927

[1] These figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

The National Blood Service is unable to provide a breakdown by local authority area.

These figures include certain categories of specialist donation, such as neo-natal, rare blood sub-types and mobile component donation.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the blood collection level of each geographical area in England and Wales was assessed to be by the review of the National Blood Service Strategy, broken down by (i) percentage of donors in the population in each area and (ii) number of times donors give blood in a given period. [201248]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Blood Service (NBS) has provided the information shown in the following table.

Region[1]	Donor penetration in population (percentage)	Average frequency of donation[2]
Anglia	4.4	1.50
London	3.6	1.15
North and Yorkshire	4.7	1.36
North-west	3.6	1.25
South	4.7	1.36
South-east	4.0	1.37
South-west	5.6	1.25
Trent	4.7	1.41
West midlands	3.6	1.62

[1] The regions are based on NBS definitions not standard Government regions.
[2] Average number of donations per registered donor per year.

Chlamydia: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the mathematical modelling referred to on the National Chlamydia Screening Programme's web page on the local delivery plan monitoring line, which indicates that a higher proportion of the 16 to 24-year-old population will need to be screened to make a serious impact and reduce the disease burden. [201334]

Dawn Primarolo: A copy of 'Modelling the effectiveness of chlamydia screening in England' has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Contracts

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts were held by *(a)* YouGov, *(b)* ICM, *(c)* Gallup, *(d)* GfK NOP, *(e)* Rasmussen, *(f)* ComRes and *(g)* Opinion Leader Research with his Department in the financial year 2007-08; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost to the public purse was of each contract. [201423]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will now be introduced on 1 July 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such future but not retrospective information for the Department.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based. [200711]

Ann Keen: The last published resource accounts for the NHS Pension Scheme are those for the year ending 31 March 2007 when the estimated liabilities were £218 billion. The discount rate changed from a real rate of 2.8 per cent. to a real rate of 1.8 per cent. (5.37 per cent. to 4.6 per cent. including inflation) from 31 March 2007. The demographic assumptions adopted for the assessments are derived from the specific experience of the membership of the scheme to 31 March 2003, and other similar large public service schemes where some aspect of the experience is not readily available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91. [200712]

Ann Keen: Information from 1996-97 to 2006-07, the latest year that pension scheme accounts for the NHS Pension Scheme (England and Wales) are available, is shown in the following table. Comparable information is not available for the years 1990-91 to 1995-96.

There have been various changes in the method of calculation over the years. These include amending the discount rate in 2005-06 and 2006-07 and updating the assumptions on longevity. Direct year-on-year comparisons are therefore not entirely meaningful.

	£ billion
1996-97	60.9
1997-98	64.0
1998-99	67.2
1999-2000	72.2
2000-01	75.0
2001-02	86.8
2002-03	94.6
2003-04	104.2
2004-05	131.4
2005-06	165.4
2006-07	218.0

Source:
National Health Service Appropriation Accounts and NHS Pension Scheme Resource Accounts.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by 1 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200714]

Mr. Bradshaw: Increasing the member contribution for the NHS Pension Scheme by 1 per cent. across the board would yield approaching £330 million per annum to the scheme, based on a pensionable payroll of approaching £33 billion over the 12 months to 31 March 2007.

Until 31 March 2008 the NHS Pension Scheme contribution rate was six per cent. of pensionable pay, however, members classed as manual workers paid five per cent. Employees' contribution rates to the NHS Pension Scheme have been increased from 1 April 2008 as shown in the following table. This will produce an estimated yield of about 6.5 per cent. an increase of about 0.5 per cent. over the previous contribution structure. There is no change to the Department's expenditure from this increase.

Pensionable pay	Contribution rate (percentage)
Up to and including £19,682	5
£19,683 to £65,002 (linked to Agenda for Change pay point 17)	6.5
£65,003 to £102,499 (linked to Agenda for Change pay point 49)	7.5
£102,500 to any higher amount	8.5

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200715]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department publishes annual salary, allowances, benefits and pensions information for members of its Departmental Management Board in its Annual Resource Accounts. Copies of the 2006-07 resource accounts are available in the Library and are also available at the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081317

The cash equivalent transfer value of the Department's 10 highest paid permanent members of staff in post as at 31 March 2007 was £6,867,000.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time posts were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in his Department in each of the last three years. [200663]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department employs temporary staff of various kinds for a number of reasons, including:

to cover short term vacancies, such as the need for administrative support;

to fill posts temporarily because they are likely to be relocated or because structural changes are being implemented;

to provide skills that the Department does not have but needs urgently and/or on a short-term basis; and

in the case of secondments into the organisation, to support the development of staff in other organisations where there is also a business benefit for the Department in doing so.

The Department does not separately identify the type of post that is being filled on a temporary basis. The figures provided therefore cover all instances of posts being filled temporarily.

The numbers of civil servants employed on a temporary basis for more than six months in each of the last three years are as follows:

As at 1 October to 30 September each year	Number
2006-07	23
2005-06	29
2004-05	59

The number of posts filled on temporary promotion by people who had been in such roles for at least six months as at 30 September 2007 was 55. Figures before this date do not identify the length of a temporary promotion.

The number of secondments into the Department as at 30 September 2007 was 57. Their length of service is not available, but the vast majority are likely to have been employed for more than six months.

The Department does not record the length of service of temporary agency staff, but the vast majority will be short-term appointments of less than six months.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195820]

Mr. Bradshaw: Full-time staff in the Department are contracted to work 41 hours gross per week (36 hours net per week) in London and 42 hours gross per week (37 hours net per week) outside London. Around 10 per cent. of the Department's staff work part-time, and are contracted to work fewer hours than their full time colleagues. The Department does not record actual hours worked by employees. However the Department's 2007 staff survey, which was completed by well over half of staff, suggested that 25 per cent. of staff worked contracted hours, 45 per cent. worked one to five hours in excess of contracted hours, 19 per cent. of staff six to 10 hours in excess and 11 per cent. of staff more than 10 hours in excess.

E. Coli

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence was of *(a)* E. coli and *(b)* salmonella poisoning in each of the last three years. [201390]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of laboratory-confirmed cases of United Kingdom-acquired *Escherichia Coli* (*E. coli*) 0157 and *Salmonella* infections are given in the following table. The most recent data available are from 2006.

	E. coli 0157	*Salmonella*
2004	818	11,791
2005[1]	1,019	9,835
2006[2]	1,146	11,079

[1] Provisional data July 2006.
[2] Provisional data July 2007.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, Health Protection Scotland, Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (Northern Ireland)

Food Standards Agency: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what pension scheme is offered to staff joining the Food Standards Agency; what the rate of employer contributions to the scheme is; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms and benefits of the scheme. [198444]

Dawn Primarolo: New entrants to the civil service, including those joining the Food Standards Agency, are covered by the civil service pension arrangements. Staff can choose between 'nuvos', a defined benefit pension scheme and 'partnership', a stakeholder

pension. If a person is being re-employed, and was previously a member of a civil service pension scheme, they may be able to rejoin their previous scheme, but this will depend on the length of time since they were last employed.

In respect of members of the defined benefit schemes, employer contribution rates are assessed for each of four ranges of pay levels. A separate rate is payable in respect of a group of prison officers who have certain reserved rights. The rates for 2008-09 are:

Band	*Full-time annual salary*	*Rate from 1 April 2008 (Percentage)*
Band 1	£19,500 and under	17.1
Band 2	£19,501 to £40,500	19.5
Band 3	£40,501 to £69,000	23.2
Band 4	£69,001 and above	25.5
Prison officers with reserved rights (pre-fresh start) (Percentage)	26.5	

The scheme rules are laid before Parliament and copies of the Principal Civil Service Pension scheme are available in the Library.

For members of the "partnership scheme", the employer pays a basic contribution of between 3 per cent. and 12.5 per cent. (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product and will match the member's contribution up to a limit of 3 per cent. Employers also contribute a further 0.8 per cent. of pensionable salary to cover the cost of risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

Details of the civil service pension arrangements can be found on the civil service pensions website at:

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk.

General Practitioners: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time general practitioners were employed by Peterborough Primary Care Trust and its predecessor in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [201925]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format.

Most of the general practitioners (GPs) working in the general medical services are independent contractors providing services for primary care trusts (PCTs) under contract, rather than being employed by the PCT. By September 2007 the number of GPs nationally had increased by 5,318, and by 543 in the East of England Strategic Health Authority area since September 1997.

The following table shows the number of GPs for the Peterborough PCT area from 2001-07.

General medical practitioners: Full time and part time for selected areas, as at 30 September for each specified year.

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Peterborough PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	94	98
Of which:							
Full-time	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	87	86
Part-time	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	12
North Peterborough PCT	55	57	60	61	59	n/a	n/a
Of which:							
Full-time	52	54	57	58	56	n/a	n/a
Part-time	3	3	3	3	3	n/a	n/a
South Peterborough PCT	53	52	56	61	65	n/a	n/a
Of which:							
Full-time	44	39	45	51	54	n/a	n/a
Part-time	9	13	11	10	11	n/a	n/a

n/a = Data not available.

Note:

Peterborough PCT was created on 1 October 2006 following a complete merger of North Peterborough PCT and a part merger of South Peterborough PCT. The rest of South Peterborough was split between Cambridge PCT and Northampton PCT. Due to this part merger, data from 2006 onwards is not directly comparable with data for 2001- 05.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to provide for the safety of GPs and their staff who will be working extended hours under the proposed new GP contract. [201033]

Mr. Bradshaw: The interim guidance on implementing the arrangements for general practitioner practices to extend their opening hours, issued by the Department on 18 April, reminds primary care trusts that staff and patient safety is a priority, and asks them to consider, where they identify a need, how to mitigate identified risks when practices extend their hours.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to address the requirement for out-of-hours childcare for GPs and their staff working extended hours under the proposed new GP contract. [201039]

Mr. Bradshaw: Most general practitioners' practices are self-employed contractors and are responsible for their own child care arrangements. Child care arrangements for staff employed by practices are a matter for discussion for the employer.

Human-Animal Hybrid Embryos

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has provided on the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos; and if he will make a statement; [201929]

(2) what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have had with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority on the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos; and if he will make a statement; [201930]

(3) under what legislative provisions the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority issued a licence to the University of Newcastle to create human-animal hybrid embryos; and if he will make a statement. [201931]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) granted licences for two research projects involving the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos in accordance with its interpretation of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, as amended. The HFEA has a duty to consider applications that come before it and undertook a public consultation before making its decisions.

The decisions were entirely a matter for the HFEA. Neither Ministers nor departmental officials influenced the decisions in any way.

Mass Media

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessments his Department makes of media coverage of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the NHS, *(c)* departmental ministers and *(d)* health and social care. [189471]

Mr. Bradshaw: Press officers assess media coverage of departmental announcements and major health stories on a regular basis, and advise ministers and officials accordingly. The findings of a communications research programme into national and regional media evaluations, undertaken between December 2004 and November 2006, are published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/Classesofinformation/Communicationsresearch/index.htm

Meat: EU Law

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the implementation of Annex III, section V, Chapter III, point 2 (B) to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 on minced meat. [199296]

Dawn Primarolo: We are fully supportive of regulatory measures to ensure that business operators produce safe food. Paragraph 2(b), Chapter III, Section V, Annex III of Regulation (EC) 853/2004 sets out prescriptive requirements concerning the statutory time limits after slaughter for the production of minced meat in approved establishments. These requirements prevent the production of mince from carcases that have been matured, as has been the tradition in the United Kingdom. There is no scientific basis to support these requirements, which are in addition to microbiological criteria which prevent unsafe mince from being placed on the market. The Food Standards Agency is working with stakeholders including industry and the European Commission to agree a way forward on this issue.

NHS: Circulars

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether the Health Service Circular/Local Authority Circular HSC 2001/016:LAC(2001)23, which was due for review in 2004, *(a)* is still in force and *(b)* has been amended. [202688]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This health service circular was cancelled in 2004, but we expect councils to continue to apply the principles of good practice that were enshrined in the guidance. Copies of the health service circular have been placed in the Library.

"Valuing People Now: From Progress to Transformation" (published in December 2007) sets out the delivery priorities for people with learning disabilities for the next three years. These are about people having control over their lives and services, including what they do during the day, how they can be supported to access jobs, housing, and better health care and of course making sure that this change happens. Copies of this publication have also been placed in the Library. The consultation is now closed and the responses are being analysed.

NHS: Hearing Impaired

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients waited more than six weeks for *(a)* an initial NHS hearing assessment and *(b)* a follow-up NHS hearing aid assessment in the latest period for which figures are available. [201798]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Latest available data for February 2008 show there were 8,295 patients waiting longer than six weeks for all audiology assessments, including initial and follow-up hearing assessments. This represents a reduction of some 92 per cent. (from 101,335) since April 2006.

NHS: Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* service providers on their use of numbers with the prefix (i) 0845 and (ii) 087. [201794]

Mr. Bradshaw: General medical services (CMS) contractors were banned from using premium rate numbers (09 or 087) via The National Health Service (Primary Medical Services) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations SI 2005 No. 893. The ban came into force in April 2005 but did not include 084 numbers.

On 19 December 2006 the Department wrote to primary care trust chief executives advising them that the Department was reviewing the use of non-geographical telephone numbers in light of the consultation carried out by Ofcom; and re-iterating the Government's position that

"patients should not be expected to pay more than the equivalent of a local call".

The Department is currently gathering evidence on the use of 0844 numbers in general practice and will consider what further action is necessary in light of that evidence.

NHS: Vaccination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to extend uptake data collection methods to all treatments recommended for use on the NHS by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. [201843]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department provides support for centrally collected vaccine uptake data collections, and this is extended as new vaccines are added to the routine childhood vaccination programme.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what research his Department has carried out into variations in the levels of uptake of therapies recommended for use on the NHS by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. [201844]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department commissions a regular face-to-face survey conducted among parents to gauge current attitudes and perceptions of disease, immunisations and sources of information. The findings are used to help shape and inform future policy and communications with parents.

We also conduct a regular survey among general practitioners, practice nurses and health visitors on child immunisation. This research aims to gauge their information and training needs, what advice is given to parents and any personal concerns they may have. Feedback from these surveys helps us to better understand and respond to issues on the immunisation programme that health professionals may have.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on improving healthcare providers' levels of compliance with JCVI guidance. [201845]

Dawn Primarolo: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation discuss data on the uptake of vaccines in the routine national programme at every meeting. This data is published by PCT in the annual national statistics "NHS Immunisation Statistics England".

OLYMPICS

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what payments her Office made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194317]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Minister for Sport on 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 650W.

Olympic Games 2012

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which stakeholders were consulted prior to the publication of the Olympic Legacy Action Plan. [202684]

Tessa Jowell: The Legacy Action Plan has been developed in close consultation with a side range of stakeholders including:

Arts Council England
British Council
British Olympic Association
British Paralympics Association
Construction Skills
Commission for a Sustainable London 2012
Design for London
Greater London Authority
5 London 2012 Host Boroughs (Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest)
Job Centre Plus
Learning and Skills Council
London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games
London Development Agency
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
Olympic Delivery Authority
Overseas Development Institute
People 1st
PODIUM
The Royal Parks
Sector Skills Development Agency
Skills Active
Skills Set
Sport England
UK Film Council
UK School Games
UK Sport
UK Trade and Investment
Visit Britain
Youth Sport Trust
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Foreign and Commonwealth
Department for Health
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
Department for International Development
Department for Transport
Department for Work and Pensions
HM Treasury
Home Office
Office for the Third Sector

We also conducted quantitative and qualitative research, including the consultation of a UK-wide sample of 2,315 adults.

Olympic Games 2012: Ceremonies

Lyn Brown: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what role she plans for local community dance groups in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [203111]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) will be developing its plans for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in due course. It is too early to say which organisations will take part in these events in four years' time. However, the Cultural Olympiad provides opportunities for local community dance groups to take part in and enjoy the London games in the run up to and including 2012. Information and opportunities for involvement will be highlighted on the London 2012 website:

www.london2012.com

Olympic Games 2012: Education

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will consider the merits of creating an out-of-classroom education facility as part of the 2012 Olympic legacy programme. [202686]

Tessa Jowell: Education provision will be considered as part of the Legacy Masterplan Framework (LMF) work programme, and the Government continue to consider a range of possibilities for an educational legacy, including an out-of-classroom education facility.

The sustainable legacy for the Olympic Park site and surrounding communities will include new housing; sporting, retail and entertainment facilities; and supporting social infrastructure, including educational facilities. The London Development Agency (as interim legacy client) and Olympic Delivery Authority are working with partners including Government, the host boroughs and local communities to produce the LMF by early 2009, which will set out a vision for the Olympic Park, and the broad provision of facilities and infrastructure within it.

Olympic Games: China

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent representations the Government has made to the International Olympic Committee on China's commitments relating to improvements in human rights and democracy with regard to the hosting of the Olympic Games in Beijing. [201899]

Tessa Jowell: The Government's priority is to raise human rights concerns directly with the Chinese Government, both bilaterally and through the European Union, not through the IOC. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary discussed human rights during their respective visits to China in January and February. I raised human rights, and, in particular, media freedom during my visit to China in November 2007, and during Chinese Vice Minister Cai Mingzhao's visit to the UK in March 2008.

When I visited China in September 2006, I strongly encouraged the Chinese Government to consider a liberalisation of media regulations. On 1 January 2007 the Chinese Government temporarily lifted restrictions on travel and the requirement to seek official permission for interviews for foreign journalists, up to and during the 2008 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. We hope these regulations will be fully implemented in all regions and that they will remain in place after the games and be extended to China's domestic journalists. We have urged China to consider this.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197629]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office supports the use of green transport and offers an interest free advance of salary to purchase bicycles and accessories to its staff.

National Archives: Consolidated Communications

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what payments National Archives made to Consolidated Communications in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose in each case. [202288]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

Consolidated Communications has undertaken work for The National Archives on one occasion over the last five years. A total of £13,672.20 (excluding VAT) was paid for work between July and December 2006 undertaken to support the launch of "Living Information: A New Vision for The National Archives" in July 2007. They were paid in three instalments between November 2006 and May 2007.

Voluntary Work

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) if he will hold discussions with Volunteering England over the proposal in the Goldsmith Report on Citizenship: Our Common Bond to offer council tax rebates for volunteering activities; [202500]

(2) if he will hold discussions with the National Union of Students on the proposal in the Goldsmith Report on Citizenship: Our Common Bond to reduce university fees for students who volunteer. [202501]

Phil Hope: The Government welcome the recommendations made by Lord Goldsmith in Citizenship: Our Common Bond. We are interested in his proposals to encourage and support volunteering. Officials within the Cabinet Office will consider the recommendations, consulting with other Government Departments and stakeholders, such as Volunteering England and the National Union of Students, as appropriate.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [198770]

Mr. Lammy: Although the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills does not offer the Cycle to Work scheme it does offer an alternative scheme to its employees. This scheme also supports employees in taking greener journeys, by enabling employees to purchase a bike. This arrangement does not extend to the Department's non-departmental public bodies.

Neither the Department nor its non-departmental public bodies offer any other tax free benefits in kind to employees. The same tax rules apply to benefits in kind provided to employees of Government Departments as to any other employee.

Mature Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of making the support available to *(a)* 25 to 30-years-olds and *(b)* 25 to 35-year-olds enrolled on their first full level 3 course equivalent to that of 19 to 25-year-olds enrolled on their first full level 3 course in respect of tuition fees; and if he will make a statement. [196895]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 296-97W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Biofuels

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided for research and development into biogas production and trials for farmers. [201221]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 2000, DEFRA has spent £720,000 on research and development into biogas production. Current work includes the UK contribution to a EU FP7 Biogas project (£300,000 over four years). This project is due to complete in 2010 and will result in a synthesis of information required to assess the development of a sustainable biogas industry in the UK.

Agriculture: Employment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review labour strategies for farm work, with particular reference to the supply of farm labour from overseas. [201255]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government fully appreciates the importance for agriculture and horticulture of the supply of labour from overseas. The expansion of the EU has opened up a wide labour market. The Accession Monitoring Report for the period May 2004 to December 2007 records that more than 77,000 workers from the new EU Accession States have registered under the Worker Registration Scheme to take up work in agriculture.

The Government are also aware of the importance of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) to help out at peak times during the year. The Minister responsible for SAWS at the Home Office, my hon. Friend the Minister for Borders and Immigration, and I recently had a useful meeting with the National Farmers' Union and representatives of SAWS operators at which we discussed the labour needs of the industry and the challenges facing it for the future. We shall continue to keep in touch with the Home Office and the industry on these issues and will consider whether any review of policy is necessary.

Agriculture: Land Use

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the area of land required to produce equivalent amounts of organic and non-organic food. [202116]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* DEFRA has not funded research specifically on land use in organic and non-organic systems. However, the following DEFRA-funded projects have involved some element of comparison between organic and non-organic farming:

IS0205—Determining the environmental burdens and resource use in the production of agricultural and horticultural commodities

OF0145/301—Testing the sustainability of stockless arable organic farming on a fertile soil

OF0165—Factors influencing biodiversity within organic and conventional systems of arable farming

OF0319/OFO 326—Sustainable organic hill and upland farming—A collaborative case study approach

OF0189/OF0190/OF0373— Economics of organic farming

Further information on these projects can be found can be found on the research pages of the DEFRA website.

Alpacas: Farming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision has been made to support alpaca farmers in the event of an outbreak of animal disease. [201966]

Jonathan Shaw: No specific provisions have been made to support alpaca farmers in the event of an outbreak of animal disease.

DEFRA has established a camelids (camels, llamas, alpacas, guanaco and vicuna) stakeholder group, which is a forum for forward planning and raising issues, as well as updating camelid stakeholders on the current disease risks. In addition, particularly during outbreaks, DEFRA holds regular meetings with industry stakeholders to which representatives from camelid societies are invited.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the members of the England Implementation Group to oversee animal health and welfare strategy are; and what organisations they represent. [201328]

Jonathan Shaw: The membership of the England Implementation Group looking at the animal health and welfare strategy is as follows:

Helen Browning (Chair)
Richard Bennett
Tim Brigstocke
Chris Brown
Neil Cutler
Nigel Durnford
Stewart Houston
Peter Jinman
Diane McCrea
Martin Potter
Peter Scott
Dick Sibley
Sarah Wolfensohn

The EIG was appointed by DEFRA Ministers, to advise Government on implementing the Strategy in England. The 13 members of the group are there for their individual expertise and experience in animal health and welfare, rather than as representatives of particular organisations.

Further information on the members is available on the DEFRA website.

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of cases of animal cruelty which have taken place in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas in the last 12 months. [201624]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on whether an offence was committed in an urban or rural area cannot be separately identified from the data reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what forms of regulatory systems, standards or husbandry guidelines his Department's feasibility study on wild animals in circuses is considering; on what date it is expected to report; and if he will make a statement; [193113]

(2) whether winter quarters for circus animals are subject to the same regulatory regime as travelling circuses; and if he will make a statement; [193114]

(3) whether interested parties will be consulted as part of his Department's feasibility study on wild animals in circuses; whether such bodies will be able to submit evidence; and if he will make a statement; [193115]

(4) whether his Department's feasibility study on wild animals in circuses is considering direct application of the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practices to circuses, the creation of new Standards for circuses only or new legislation covering wild animals in circuses; and if he will make a statement. [193116]

Jonathan Shaw: My noble Friend the Lord Rooker will write to the hon. Member following the completion of ongoing policy discussions.

Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females, broken down by age group were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of offences under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 for (A) noise, (B) graffiti and fly-posting and (C) waste and litter in (1) Southend, (2) each local authority in Essex and (3) Essex police authority area, broken down by basic command unit in each year since the introduction of the powers. [194373]

Joan Ruddock: Data on court proceedings are reported to the Ministry of Justice and are included in the following table in as much detail as the data allow.

Offences relating to acts of graffiti and fly posting are not separately identifiable from other criminal damage (such as vandalism and damaging property) and therefore have been omitted from the data table.

Records are kept for the principal offence, that is, the one which carried the heaviest penalty. It is possible that more prosecutions were taken that included one of these offences, but not as the principal offence.

The data are for the Essex police force area; data are not recorded by local authority.

	Male		*Female*	
	Number proceeded against	*Number found guilty*	*Number proceeded against*	*Number found guilty*
Waste disposal offences				
2003	9	8	0	0
2004	9	5	2	1
2005	9	9	1	0
2006	18	17	1	1
Littering offences				
2003	7	5	2	2
2004	17	14	11	9
2005	15	11	6	5
2006	18	9	4	2

Noise offences

There are no proceedings recorded for noise offences.

Bees

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department plans to provide for bee inspectors in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [201612]

Jonathan Shaw: Detailed allocations have still to be finalised. The expectation is that funding for DEFRA's ongoing programme of support for bee health will be around the same level as previously. In the event of a need to respond to new serious threats, there are contingency arrangements in place for additional funding to be made available.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to investigate the reasons for unexplained losses of queens from bee hives. [201613]

Jonathan Shaw: Unexplained colony losses which have occurred this season, for which there is no ready explanation, are being investigated by the National Bee Unit.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the emergence of an Asian variation of the bee pathogen Nosema ceranae. [201614]

Jonathan Shaw: Last year, the National Bee Unit conducted an initial survey to estimate the prevalence of both Nosema species that affect honeybees across England and Wales as part of a horizon scanning project. *Nosema ceranae*, which is sometimes termed the Asian variant of the more common *Nosema apis*, was confirmed for the first time in the UK, infecting 37 per cent. of colonies sampled during the summer of 2007. This is the first time that sampling for *Nosema ceranae* has been carried out. It has been found in samples from 13 counties in England and Wales, including Cornwall and North Yorkshire. *Nosema apis* was also present in 14 per cent. of these samples.

We do not yet know the impact of *Nosema ceranae*, but the distribution suggests that it has been present for some time. A more detailed survey to estimate the impact of both *Nosema* species across England and Wales is planned for this year.

Biofuels: Imports

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the biofuels target he expects to be met from imports in each year until 2015. [201269]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Government expect that transport fuel suppliers will use a mixture of imported and domestically produced biofuels to comply with the requirements of the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO). We do not, however, have precise estimates of the likely split between imports and domestic production in any given year. The Renewable Fuels Agency will be reporting regularly on these matters.

Biofuels: Wales

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided for research and development into biogas production and trials for farmers in Wales. [202104]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 2000, DEFRA has spent £720,000 on research and development into biogas production. Current work includes the UK contribution to a EU FP7 Biogas project (£300,000 over four years). This project is due to complete in 2010 and will result in a synthesis of information required to assess the development of a sustainable biogas industry in the UK.

DEFRA holds the research and development budget and commission research relevant to England and Wales.

Birds: Smuggling

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many seizures of wild birds species not protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora that were imported illegally were made in each year from 2000 to 2007. [202006]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA holds no central records of seizures of non-CITES listed animals. Seizures are made by local authorities.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197603]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA offers an interest-free loan for bikes and essential equipment (CPU 5) to assist staff who wish to purchase a bicycle for travelling between home and office. Examples of essential equipment include lights; helmet; lock; pump; panniers; back pack; or waterproofs. The total loan cannot exceed £600 and is repayable over a maximum of 12 months. Casual staff and staff employed for less than three months are not eligible for this advance. An advance of salary for the purchase of a bicycle and essential equipment is classed as a beneficial loan for tax purposes.

From information held centrally we are unable to confirm arrangements for DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide were offset *(a)* in total and *(b)* via the Government carbon offsetting funding for air flights in 2006-07 by his Department. [198221]

Mr. Woolas: The Government carbon offsetting fund's (GCOF) aim is to offset up to 305,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide predominantly from air travel, by the end of April 2009. This will be predominantly from Central Government Departments. A full list of current participants is available on the DEFRA website.

For financial year 2006-07, DEFRA will procure credits through the GCOF to offset 2,864 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) for its flights.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the extent of dog fighting; what steps are being taken to prevent dog fighting; and if he will make a statement. [202336]

Jonathan Shaw: No estimates are available of the extent of dog fighting that takes place in this country, which is an illegal activity.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006, which came into force 12 months ago, created separate offences for animal fighting and increased the maximum financial penalties available to the courts for such offences.

Anyone found guilty of an offence related to animal fighting is liable to a maximum fine of £20,000 (previously £5,000), or six months imprisonment, or both.

Facilities Management

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department was of the facilities management infrastructure in each of the last five financial years; and what it is expected to be in 2007-08. [194169]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

2007-08: Current year extrapolation circa £22 million;

2006-07: £20 million;

2005-06: £15 million;

2004-05: £14 million;

2003-04: Figures not currently available.

Although not tracked in detail until recent years, Estates have continued to deliver efficiencies and savings as part of the management of their core contracts. The realisation of savings in excess of the 5 per cent. against baselines has been a standard minimum year-on-year budget target resulting from comprehensive spending reviews (CSR).

Past savings/efficiencies have been masked by the moving size and shape of the Department and its accommodation requirement.

In 2006-07 DEFRA Estates undertook a contract realignment exercise which recorded a VFM saving with OGC of £1 million. Contract reconciliations are still in progress for the 2007-08 year, savings of £100,000 have already been identified.

All figures based on previous (DEFRA Estates Division) FM contracts which cover service provision for the core department only delivered by three main regional contracts. It should be noted in earlier years that there was some degree of localised provision and therefore not included in the contract sum totals shown.

Wider DEFRA network bodies (agencies and NDPB) have their own budgeting, finance and procurement governance. Costs attributable to these organisations are not visible to DEFRA Estates.

Flood Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are available for those who have been affected by flooding to enhance protection of their properties; and what discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the Environment Agency and *(c)* others (i) to identify available funding for flood protection and (ii) to increase the rate of take-up. [201799]

Mr. Woolas: There are numerous ways of reducing the damage that flooding causes at individual properties. Resistance measures slow down or stop ingress of water by putting barriers across air-vents, service points and doors. Examples include door-boards, airbrick covers and one-way valves for sewage outlets. Resilience measures limit the damage and disruption that occurs when water does get in. Examples include using concrete/tiled floors and waterproof lime-based plaster, replacing MDF kitchens with stainless steel ones, and raising the level of electric sockets.

As part of the Government's Making Space for Water programme, we have been exploring what support we can offer to households in high risk areas who will not benefit from a community scheme. £28 million has been set aside in the recent comprehensive spending review settlement to fund work to help communities adapt to increasing risk of flooding and coastal erosion.

In collaboration with the Environment Agency and some local authorities, we have funded six pilots (£500,000) to examine the feasibility of developing a grant scheme for householders on flood resilience. These pilots have just completed and we are expecting final reports shortly.

As part of this work, the Environment Agency is investigating the development of a web-based information resource, providing a route-map on different sources of advice for flood resilience options for individual properties. This would be open to members of the public, including builders.

We have also been working with the insurance industry, as part of the Statement of Principles review (see earlier submission), to look at what insurers can do to promote the use of household-level measures and in particular resilient repair.

Flood Control: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress made by each local authority in Gloucestershire in revising flood defence strategies by either *(a)* revising the local plan and *(b)* developing the local development framework; and what powers he has to monitor the development of flood defence strategies. [201795]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency reviews flood defences through catchment flood management plans and flood defence strategies. Revising and monitoring flood defence strategies is not a function of local authorities via the local plan or local development framework process.

In preparing strategic flood risk assessments, local authorities consider flood defences with a view to where they locate allocations for development and where they may require site-specific flood risk assessments to be carried out by developers and submitted with planning applications.

Strategic plans, such as catchment flood management plans and strategic flood risk assessments feed into the local development framework process by providing a baseline of evidence. This detailed environmental information allows informed decisions to be made in relation to land use and development proposals at both a regional and a local level.

The Environment Agency is involved with a strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) that is currently being undertaken by Gloucestershire county council. This should assess flood risk from a variety of sources and will take account of the 2007 summer floods. It will assist local authorities in making future housing allocations and ensuring that future developments are as sustainable as possible in flood risk terms. The SFRA is due to be completed in May.

Floods: Costs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of repairs to properties flooded during the summer of 2007. [201577]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 68W.

Food: Prices

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of biomass production on food prices over the last five years. [202114]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* In the UK, over the last five years, there has been no large-scale production of biofuels from oilseeds and grains. Consequently, any effect on food prices has been negligible. Production plants are being built and are expected to come on line over the next few years.

At a global level, use of grains and oilseeds for biofuels is more important. However, a recent analysis by DEFRA concluded that the current high commodity prices are driven by a number of factors, of which demand for biofuels is one, but not the most important factor. Full details of the analysis can be viewed on the DEFRA website.

The area planted to dedicated energy crops, such as miscanthus and short rotation coppice, in the UK is still very small compared to total crops area (below 0.1 per cent.) and as such is likely to have had an un-measurably small impact on food prices.

Food: Salt

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with Consensus Action on Salt and Health on salt levels in food. [190215]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

While the Ministers have not met with Consensus Action on Salt and Health (CASH) recently, Food Standards Agency (FSA) officials, and the FSA chair, have met Professor MacGregor and Jo Butten to discuss the review of the voluntary salt reduction targets which is currently underway. CASH have also been present at 19 recent stakeholder meetings held by the FSA to inform the review of the targets.

Horse Racing: Animal Welfare

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department collects statistics on deaths of racehorses which take place during races. [202008]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government do not hold records on the circumstances or location of the death of racehorses. Such details may be obtained from the British Horseracing Authority.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had on measures to reduce the number of deaths of racehorses during races. [202009]

Jonathan Shaw: My ministerial colleague, the noble Lord Rooker, has arranged to meet the British Horseracing Authority in May to discuss the safety of racehorses during races.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on deaths of racehorses during races. [202010]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has received no representations on the death of racehorses during races recently.

Horses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1341W, on horses: animal welfare, if he will place in the Library a copy of the file. [201959]

Jonathan Shaw: Some of the papers have been placed in the Library of the House. The remaining papers are not being published as they attract legal professional privilege.

Reptiles: EU External Trade

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* CITES-listed and *(b)* non-CITES-listed (i) reptiles and (ii) birds imported into the European Union as recorded by the Trade Control and Expert System in each year from 2000 to 2006. [202021]

Jonathan Shaw: The TRACES system is run by the European Commission. Use of the system became compulsory from the start of 2005. Although some records exist for 2004, these are not comparable with later years.

Number of consignments recorded on TRACES for each year is as follows:

	Within the EU	*Outside the EU*
2004		
Reptiles	2	89
Birds (non-poultry but includes game)	107	37
2005		
Reptiles	18	233
Birds (non-poultry but includes game)	962	90
2006		
Reptiles	12	248
Birds (non-poultry but includes game)	787	8

	Within the EU	Outside the EU
2007		
Reptiles	13	289
Birds (non-poultry but includes game)	964	14

TRACES does not record whether the animals are CITES listed or not.

Scrapie: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has commissioned into maternal transfer of scrapie from ewe to lamb. [201329]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 1995, DEFRA (and its predecessor MAFF) has funded seven research projects looking at different aspects of maternal transmission of scrapie in sheep. These projects are:

(i) Project SE1843—Maternal transmission of scrapie in Sheep

(ii) Project SE1856—Investigation of the sources of TSE infection for the lamb in the prenatal and perinatal period

(iii) Project SE1855—Investigation of the risk of transmission of scrapie in milk of sheep,

(iv) Project SE2004—Identification of PrP associated infectivity in blood and milk from sheep infected with TSE, toward a diagnostic test for live animals,

(v) Project SE1834—The role of the pre-implantation embryo in the vertical transmission of natural scrapie infection

(vi) Project SE1814—To determine if scrapie can be transmitted by transfer of embryos from ewes infected with scrapie to uninfected ewes,

(vii) Project SE1823—Investigation of the role of the embryo in maternal transmission of scrapie in sheep.

The first two projects are trying to determine which tissues from scrapie-infected ewes carry infectivity and therefore may infect lambs. Different tissues and fluids such as placenta, blood, urine and faeces are being examined for the presence of PrPSc, the protein associated with scrapie. The effect of the PrP genotype of the ewe and the lamb and the effect of removing the placenta immediately after birth are also being examined as possible factors in maternal transmission. The next two projects are looking at milk from scrapie-infected ewes and determining if milk contains scrapie infectivity or PrPSc, the protein associated with scrapie. Recent results from project SE1855 have shown that milk can carry scrapie infectivity (BMC Vet Res. 2008 Apr 8;4(1):14).

The last three projects have looked at whether embryos, collected from a scrapie infected ewe, give rise to infected lambs when transplanted into scrapie free ewes. The most recent of these projects, SE1834, found that transplanted embryos do not appear to become infected.

The total cost of these seven projects is £5,491,054.

More details of these projects and other DEFRA research projects can be found on the science and research pages of the DEFRA website.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments the Waste and Resources Action Programme made to Consolidated Communications in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202297]

Joan Ruddock: Consolidated Communications have previously provided strategic communications and event management services to the DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). This was in relation to the development and implementation of the Courtauld Commitment, a voluntary waste reduction agreement with retailers and food manufacturers.

Payments by WRAP to Consolidated Communications over the last five years on this, and other lesser activities, was £88,975.25, comprising £37,912.75 in 2006-07, and £51,062.50 in 2007-08.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 706W, on Enviros Consulting, which of the projects listed in the table included the provision of advice, training and consultancy on *(a)* domestic waste collection practices and *(b)* charging for domestic waste collection. [199504]

Joan Ruddock: The following table indicates projects which included the provision of advice, training and consultancy on domestic waste collection practices. None of the projects related to charging for domestic waste collection.

Project/programme	*Advice, training and consultancy on domestic waste collection practices*	*Payment (£)*
Communications via local partners (BCLF) total	No	73,309.59
Construction (general) total	No	772.89
Evaluation total	No	56,900.00
Executive total	No	2,544.25
Local authority support total	Yes	27,335.50
Local authority training total	Yes	278,742.52
Local communications fund (BCLF) total	No	105,233.02
Manufacturing support (wood) total	No	25,372.90
Organics (added value) total	No	27,148.82
Organics (building infrastructure) total	No	7,461.95
Organics (promoting compost use) total	No	38,048.08
Organics total	No	172,582.90
Plasterboard total	No	122,805.44
Policy total	No	21,579.93
Procurement total	No	106,515.68
Recycle at work total	No	15,112.25
Regional Development Agency support total	No	28,899.96
Regional economic development total	No	152,305.20

Project/programme	Advice, training and consultancy on domestic waste collection practices	Payment (£)
Recycling and organics technical advisory team (ROTATE) total	Yes	69,460.49
Small medium enterprises total	No	133,290.39
Manufacturing support (wood) total	No	31,663.90
Total	—	1,497,091.66

Waste Management: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities operate residual household waste collections with a frequency of less than once a week, including those operating pilot schemes with that frequency. [199569]

Joan Ruddock: The following table represents our best understanding of local authorities operating residual household waste collections with a frequency of less than once a week, including pilot schemes. However, due to the often rapid changes in this area, it is unlikely to be completely up to date.

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly residual waste collections)

Jpp number	Local authority	
19	Alnwick District Council	
104	Amber Valley	
139	Ashfield District Council	
283	Aylesbury Vale District Council	Very small pilot scheme
233	Babergh District Council	
99	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	
138	Bassetlaw District Council	
18	Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council	
	Blackpool Borough Council	
17	Blyth Valley Borough Council	
122	Boston Borough Council	
	Bracknell Forest Borough Council	
205	Braintree District Council	
225	Breckland District Council	
156	Bridgnorth District Council	
	Bristol City Council	
224	Broadland District Council	
149	Bromsgrove District Council	
137	Broxtowe Borough Council	
64	Burnley Borough Council	
191	Cambridge City Council	
166	Cannock Chase District Council	
319	Canterbury City Council	
38	Carlisle City Council	
16	Castle Morpeth Borough Council	
113	Chartwood Borough Council	
326	Cherwell District Council	
102	Chesterfield Borough Council	
344	Chichester District Council	
282	Chiltern District Council	Phase 1 and Phase 2 introduced—not district-wide
63	Chorley Borough Council	
37	Copeland Borough Council	
130	Corby Borough Council	
31	Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council	
216	Dacorum Borough Council	
129	Daventry District Council	
96	Derby City Council	
11	Derwentside District Council	
	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	
303	East Hampshire District Council	
121	East Lindsey District Council	
302	Eastleigh Borough Council	
30	Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	
	Epping Borough Council	AWC during winter only
100	Erewash Borough Council	
366	Exeter City Council	Only 50 per cent. coverage and do not intend to expand further
	Fareham Borough Council	
189	Fenland District Council	
232	Forest Heath District Council	
62	Fylde Borough Council	
136	Gedling Borough Council	AWC during winter only
300	Gosport Borough Council	
223	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	
84	Hambleton District Council	
112	Harborough District Council	
	Hart District Council	
4	Hartlepool Borough Council	
	Hastings Borough Council	Started roll out in 2007 and planning for 69 per cent. coverage
298	Havant Borough Council	
	Hertsmere Borough Council	
111	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	
99	High Peak Borough Council	
188	Huntingdonshire District Council	
61	Hyndburn Borough Council	
231	Ipswich Borough Council	
397	Kennet District Council	
127	Kettering Borough Council	
	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	Being introduced from August 2007 over 3 years
60	Lancaster City Council	
164	Lichfield District Council	
120	Lincoln City Council	Propose to switch to AWC during winter only from 2008

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly residual waste collections)

Jpp number	*Local authority*	
	London Borough of Bexley	Introducing from spring 2008
263	London Borough of Harrow	
28	Macclesfield Borough Council	
135	Mansfield District Council	
110	Melton Borough Council	
390	Mendip District Council	
183	Mid Bedfordshire District Council	
365	Mid Devon District Council	
230	Mid Suffolk District Council	
341	Mid Sussex District Council	Roll-out from August 2007
335	Mole Valley District Council	
134	Newark and Sherwood District Council	
364	North Devon District Council	
	North East Derbyshire	
	North Hertfordshire District Council	Introduced October 2007
119	North Kesteven District Council	
77	North Lincolnshire Council	
221	North Norfolk District Council	
155	North Shropshire District Council	
109	North West Leicestershire District Council	
126	Northampton Borough Council	
133	Nottingham City Council	
	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	Pilot
154	Oswestry Borough Council	
325	Oxford City Council	
59	Pendle Borough Council	
187	Peterborough City Council	
58	Preston Borough Council	
373	Purbeck District Council	
	Reading Borough Council	
2	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	
145	Redditch Borough Council	
82	Richmondshire District Council	
	Rochdale MBC	First phase in summer 2006. Roll out postponed until 2008
	Rochford District Council	Being introduced from April 2008
56	Rossendale Borough Council	
	Rother District Council	
	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	
	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	Trial
132	Rushcliffe Borough Council	
	Rushmoor Borough Council	6,500 household trial 2007
106	Rutland County Council	Started April 2008
81	Ryedale District Council	
	Scarborough Borough Council	

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly residual waste collections)

Jpp number	*Local authority*	
	Sefton MBC	First phase introduced. Being rolled out during 2008
311	Shepway District Council	
153	Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council	Late summer 2007
	South Bedfordshire District Council	
281	South Buckinghamshire District Council	4,400 household trial
186	South Cambridgeshire District Council	
97	South Derbyshire District Council	
392	South Gloucestershire Council	
362	South Hams District Council	
117	South Kesteven District Council	
35	South Lakeland District Council	
219	South Norfolk District Council	
125	South Northamptonshire Council	
55	South Ribble Borough Council	
152	South Shropshire District Council	
388	South Somerset District Council	
162	South Staffordshire District Council	
	Spelthorne Borough Council	
229	St. Edmundsbury Borough Council	
	Stafford Borough Council	Being introduced from February 2008
160	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Introduced from September 2007
	Stratford-upon-Avon	Proposed introduction from August 2008
	Suffolk Coastal	9,000 households in 2006 plus 9,500 hhs in 2007 plus 6,000 April 2008
310	Swale Borough Council	Roll out from July 2007
	Swindon Borough Council	Introduced from June 2007
150	Tamworth Borough Council	
387	Taunton Deane Borough Council	
	Thanet District Council	
361	Teignbridge District Council	
151	Telford and Wrekin Borough Council	
295	Test Valley Borough Council	
308	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	
360	Torbay Council	
307	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	
15	Tynedale District Council	
195	Uttlesford District Council	
27	Vale Royal Borough Council	
14	Wansbeck District Council	
	Warwick District Council	Being introduced from April 2008
227	Waveney District Council	

Local authorities operating alternate weekly collections (fortnightly residual waste collections)

Jpp number	*Local authority*	
329	Waverley Borough Council	
286	Wealden District Council	
124	Wellingborough Borough Council	
54	West Lancashire District Council	
394	West Wiltshire District Council	
	Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	
294	Winchester City Council	
68	Wirral MBC	Introduced from January 2007—not borough wide
328	Woking Borough Council	
143	Worcester City Council	
280	Wycombe District Council	
53	Wyre Borough Council	
141	Wyre Forest District Council	
78	York City Council	

TREASURY

Bankruptcy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will re-evaluate what the appropriateness of the length of the time that statutory demands normal term is before an action for bankruptcy is pursued. [202426]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The ability to ask the court to make a bankruptcy order on the basis of the failure to comply with a statutory demand within the required period has been a feature of insolvency legislation for over 20 years.

The Insolvency Service has recently been conducting a review of its secondary legislation. In that process, it has consulted a wide-ranging group of stakeholders on proposed changes, sought views generally and has received no representations on this subject. We see no reason for any change.

Child Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of increasing child benefit for the first child by *(a)* £3, *(b)* £3.25, *(c)* £3.50, *(d)* £3.75, *(e)* £4, *(f)* £4.25, *(g)* £4.50, *(h)* £4.75 and *(i)* £5 for (i) 2009, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2011 and (iv) 2012. [200257]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated annual cost of increasing the first child rate by the requested amounts is shown in the following table:

	Estimated increase in annual expenditure (£ billion)
£3.00	1.15
£3.25	1.25
£3.50	1.35
£3.75	1.44
£4.00	1.54
£4.25	1.64
£4.50	1.73
£4.75	1.83
£5.00	1.92

Population projections imply a relatively constant number of families claiming child benefit each year, around 7.4 million, so we would not expect this cost to vary considerably for each year to 2012.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of child benefit for the first child was as a proportion of average earnings in each year since 1997. [200841]

Jane Kennedy: The value of child benefit for the first child as a proportion of employee median earnings is shown in the following table.

	Child benefit first child rate (£)	*All employee median weekly earnings (£)*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
1997-98	11.05	327.7	3.4
1998-99	11.45	340.2	3.4
1999-2000	14.40	352.3	4.1
2000-01	15.00	367.5	4.1
2001-02	15.50	353.4	4.0
2002-03	15.75	397.5	4.0
2003-04	16.05	411.8	3.9
2004-05	16.50	425.4	3.9
2005-06	17.00	443.2	3.8
2006-07	17.45	463.2	3.8
2007-08	18.10	480.8	3.8

Child benefit first child rate will increase to £20 per week in April 2009.

Child Benefit: Expenditure

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of likely expenditure on child benefit in each year until 2012. [200258]

Jane Kennedy: The projected annual expenditure on child benefit is shown in the following table:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2008-09	10,950
2009-10	11,550
2010-11	11,850
2011-12	12,320
2012-13	12,705

These projections are based on indexation of the current first and subsequent child rates of child benefit in line with prices, and projections of the number of children in the UK from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It also takes into account the Budget 2008 measure of increasing the first child rate to £20.

Retail Price Index assumptions may be found in Table C3: Economic assumptions for the public finance projections in Budget 2008:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08/report/bud_bud_08_repindex.cfm

ONS population projections may be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/NPP-2006/NPP06_NSOnline.pdf

The projections are not a statement of Government policy in relation to financial support for children, and the Government remains committed to meeting its targets to halve child poverty by 2010-11 and eradicate it by 2020-21.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs have been disciplined or dismissed for (i) alleged breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which information is available. [167991]

Jane Kennedy: HM Treasury predominately hold personal data for their staff in connection with their responsibility as an employer. In the last three years, no HM Treasury staff have been disciplined or dismissed for inappropriate access to personal or sensitive data.

HMRC has a strict policy forbidding staff to access customer records, unless they have a legitimate business need. Breaches of this policy are taken seriously and any breach will result in the commencement of disciplinary proceedings. Each case is treated on its merits but in many cases the disciplinary penalty for breach is dismissal.

The number of HMRC staff who have been disciplined or dismissed for inappropriate access to personal or sensitive data during the three years since HMRC was established in April 2005 are as follows and reflect the strength of HMRC's internal disciplinary procedures.

	Number
April 2005 to December 2005	238
January 2006 to December 2006	180
January 2007 to December 2007	192

However, these figures still represent less than 1 per cent. of total staff for each of the three years in question.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197000]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury does offer a cycle to work scheme to its employees. This scheme supports employees in taking greener journeys, by enabling employers to loan a cycle to an employee. In HM Treasury the period of loan is 12 months.

The Treasury also offers an interest free loan repayable over up to 12 months for employees to purchase a cycle.

Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1642W, on data protection, whether there is a separate line management process for HM Revenue and Customs data guardians. [195910]

Jane Kennedy: Data guardians sit within each HMRC business units' usual line management chain. The director of each business unit in HMRC is ultimately accountable for the data security arrangements in their respective business unit and as the principal accounting officer for HMRC, the chairman has ultimate responsibility for data security.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1642W, on data protection, how many full-time equivalent data guardians HM Revenue and Customs has. [195912]

Jane Kennedy: All staff in HMRC have a personal responsibility for protecting the data in their care in line with the Data Protection Act. For further advice staff can refer to their data guardian, each of whom has responsibility for the data security arrangements in a particular HMRC business unit.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168284]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC provides its staff with controlled access to customer information to facilitate the delivery and maintenance of service to customers.

Access to HMRC systems is assigned according to user-roles within the organisation, and not grade. Information on users according to grade is not available and could be collated only at a disproportionate cost.

HMRC and its agency the Valuation Office Agency have in place a range of measures and procedures in relation to training and guidance on data protection and data security and transfer. Information on number of staff who have undergone training, the length of time spent by each and the cost of training is not available and could be collated only at a disproportionate cost.

HMRC has a strict policy forbidding staff to access customer records, unless they have a legitimate business need. Breaches of this policy are taken seriously and any breach will result in the commencement of

disciplinary proceedings. Each case is treated on its merits but in many cases, the disciplinary penalty for breach is dismissal.

During the year ended 31 December 2007, 192 HMRC staff—from a headcount of just over 90,000—were disciplined or dismissed for inappropriate access to personal or sensitive data, reflecting the strength of HMRC's internal disciplinary procedure. However, this represents less than 1 per cent. of total staff for each of the three years in question.

No other information is available on the breakdowns requested in this question.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168940]

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many security breaches relating to access to personal data occurred within his Department in each year since 1997. [169712]

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170244]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC records security incidents and does not record information in the form requested.

Since April 2005, HMRC has discussed 11 data security incidents involving customer information with the Information Commissioner's Office as a matter of good practice and to ensure appropriate lessons are learned from such incidents.

HMRC has introduced more stringent controls which require that transfers of bulk data on removable media only take place where there is adequate security protection. The transfer of personal data only takes place when it is essential to do so due to a business critical need or in order to meet the HMRC's legal obligations.

No such security incidents have been recorded by the Treasury, the Office of Government Commerce or the Debt Management Office.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimates of the levels of consumption of *(a)* spirits, *(b)* spirit-based ready-to-drinks, *(c)* wine, *(d)* beer, *(e)* cider and *(f)* sparkling wine he used in forecasting the revenue yields from increases in the rates of alcohol duties in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 as set out in Budget 2008, page 9, Table 1.2; [202185]

(2) what estimates he has made of the level of consumption of *(a)* spirits, *(b)* spirit-based ready-to-drinks, *(c)* wine, *(d)* beer, *(e)* cider and *(f)* sparkling wine for (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07 and (iv) 2007-08; [202186]

(3) what the revenue from alcohol duties from *(a)* spirits, *(b)* spirit-based ready-to-drinks, *(c)* wine, *(d)* beer, *(e)* cider and *(f)* sparkling wine was in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07 and (iv) 2007-08. [202187]

Angela Eagle: Total duty receipts by type of alcohols products (cider, beer, wine and spirits) can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs 'Beer and Cider Bulletin', 'Wine of Fresh Grapes or Made Wine Bulletin' and 'Spirits Bulletin', which are available from the HM Revenue and Customs website addresses at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbeer
http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullfresh
http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullmadewine
http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullspirits

The revenue forecast for alcohol duties reflect the underlying trend in alcohol consumption, as measured by HM Revenue and Customs data on quantities of alcohol products cleared or released for UK consumption. Published estimates of quantities for each drink type are also available from the same bulletins. Separate figures for spirit-based ready-to-drink and sparkling wine products are available in terms of quantities only and not in terms of duty receipts. The Budget 2008 forecast assumes a reduction in total pure alcohol consumed as a result of the alcohol duty changes of 1.6 per cent. 2.6 per cent. and 3.5 per cent. for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively.

Financial Services Authority: College Public Policy

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments the Financial Services Authority made to College Public Policy in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose the payments were made in each case. [202254]

Angela Eagle: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the Chairman of the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme: Lansons Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments the Financial Services Compensation Scheme made to Lansons Public Affairs in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose the payments were made in each case. [202256]

Angela Eagle: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), whose day-to-day operations are independent from the Government control and influence. I have asked the Chief Executive of the FSCS to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises.

Government Departments: Sustainable Development

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government departments have *(a)* approached his Department for assistance and *(b)* received assistance in response to the procedure outlined on pages 4 and 5 in the UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan. [202546]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury is in daily contact with departments on a wide range of issues and does not keep a central count of issues raised.

Pensions: Taxation

Rob Marris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who would be affected if pension contributions were allowable for tax relief only against the basic rate of income tax; and what estimate his Department made of the effect on receipts to the Exchequer of allowing relief on pension contributions at the standard rate of income tax only in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [198065]

Angela Eagle: Latest detailed estimates of the annual cost of tax relief on registered pension schemes are available in Table 7.9 on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

If the relief on individual contributions were constrained to the basic rate of income tax, this relief would fall by one quarter.

Latest estimates of the number of individuals receiving income tax relief on individual pension contributions are given in Table 3.8 on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

If the relief on individual pension contributions were constrained to the basic rate of income tax, the proportion of such taxpayers that would be affected is one quarter.

These estimates relate to individual contributions to both personal and occupational pensions. We have not estimated the impact of charging to income tax employer contributions to private pensions made for the benefit of employees who are liable to the higher rate of income tax. The estimates do not account for behavioural effects, which are likely to be large.

Revenue and Customs: Databases

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* cross-checks and *(b)* linkages (i) exist and (ii) are planned between the data records of individuals stored on databases held by (A) HM Revenue and Customs and (B) other Government departments. [200104]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC must ensure that its use and disclosure of information complies with requirements of section 17 and section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005. HMRC are also required to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998 where applicable.

All existing and any planned cross-checking and linking is carried out in accordance with business need and only where it is lawful to do so. This applies whether the processing is within HMRC or involves other Government Departments.

Taxation: Invalid Vehicles

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will assess the effects of the tariff classification regime as it applies to mobility scooters on *(a)* people with disabilities and *(b)* the elderly; [202102]

(2) if he will make representations to the World Customs Organisation to review the tariff classification applicable to mobility scooters; [202103]

(3) if he will meet *(a)* the World Customs Organisation, *(b)* the British Healthcare Trade Association and *(c)* Ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to discuss the effects of the tariff classification of mobility scooters. [202105]

Jane Kennedy: Mobility scooters are currently classified for customs purposes as 'Vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons'. The EU has set an import duty of 10 per cent. for these vehicles. This duty is applied to the import value. The retail price for mobility scooters is determined by market forces and subject to fluctuation. The effects of tariff classification as it applies to mobility scooters will therefore vary according to the specific model being imported.

Government Ministers recognise that the tariff classification of mobility scooters is causing serious concern for both importers and end users of the products. The work to pursue a resolution is being co-ordinated by officials from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC regularly meet with representatives from The British Healthcare Trade Association (BHTA) as well as officials from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) to discuss the issue.

Tariff Classification matters fall within the competence of the Community. It is the European Commission's (EC) role to ensure uniform treatment of the same goods by agreeing a common EU position and then presenting that unified view. The UK, via officials from HMRC, has made representations to the Commission to have the classification of mobility scooters referred back to the World Customs Organisation. The EC declined on the basis that current guidelines provide uniformity of classification. In this context it is important to remember that classification experts, both at the European and the International levels, are not influenced by duty rates. The EC has agreed to consider a formal request for duty free treatment or a reduced rate of customs duty for mobility scooters. The BHTA is currently collating the necessary information to support HMRC with this approach.

VAT: Further Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on recovery of value added tax (VAT) from further education colleges following VAT inspection of the use of zero-rated buildings in each year since 1997. [202019]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs holds details of the tax affairs of all VAT registered taxpayers. This includes, where relevant, details of any VAT collected from Further Education Colleges in respect of changes in use of buildings that were VAT zero-rated on construction. However, this information is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff were employed to deal with *(a)* tax credit compliance,

(b) disputed overpayments, *(c)* fraud and *(d)* official error in each quarter since April 2003. [194493]

Jane Kennedy: For the information requested in *(a)* and *(c)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 243W.

For the information requested in *(b)* and *(d)* up to and including the quarter ended 30 June 2006 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 July 2006: *Official Report*, column 1390W. More recent information is updated in the following table:

Quarter ending	*Number of full-time equivalent staff dealing with disputed payments*
September 2006	676
December 2006	480
March 2007	440
June 2007	309
September 2007	219
December 2007	334

The numbers of staff deployed generally fluctuates according to the amount of work received.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families have been contacted as part of HM Revenue and Customs tax credit outreach work; what estimate he has made of the effectiveness of the work; and if he will make a statement. [194505]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available as there is not a standard definition of outreach work. However, in Budget 2008 the Government announced that HMRC would work with children's centres to pilot different ways and different locations for providing advice and services on tax credits.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what value of overpayments were written off by the Tax Credit Office in each year since 2003. [197978]

Jane Kennedy: Overpaid tax credits for 2003-04 were only finally identified after April 2004 when HM Revenue and Customs started finalising awards for that year and the Tax Credit Office (TCO) began considering disputed overpayments in June 2004. The bulk of these disputed overpayments written off were early cases most of which were dealt with in 2005-06.

The total amounts written off by TCO in each year through the disputed overpayment process by applying official error relief is shown in the following table.

	Value of disputed overpayments written off by Tax Credit Office (£ million)
2004-05	6
2005-06	180
2006-07	9

Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Working Tax Credit

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has undertaken into the reasons for eligible families not claiming the child care element of the working tax credit; and if he will make a statement. [202140]

Jane Kennedy: Eligibility for the child care element depends on a family using registered child care and number of hours worked. The amount a family receives then depends on household income. HMRC recently commissioned research on the child care element which, in part, attempted to investigate reasons for eligible families not claiming the child care element of working tax credit.

A full report of findings will be published in due course by HMRC in accordance with the standard publication procedure.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of families eligible for the childcare element of the working tax credit; what his estimate is of the number of eligible families who do not receive the credit; and if he will make a statement. [202180]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

However, information on the average number of in-work families benefiting from the childcare element, based on final family circumstances and incomes, in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are published in table 2.4 of the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Information on the estimates of the take-up rate for child and working tax credits in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are produced in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm.

Working Tax Credit: Fraud

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many parents have been prosecuted as a result of providing incorrect information in claiming the childcare element of the working tax credit in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [202141]

Jane Kennedy: The breakdown of figures to numbers of parents prosecuted for providing incorrect information in claiming the childcare element of the working tax credit in each year since 2001 is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However, in respect of prosecution figures for all tax credits for 2000-01 to 2003-04, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) on 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1549W;

For 2004-05 to 2006-07, figures can be found at table 7 Part 2 of the Comptroller and Auditor General's standard report in the 2006-07 HMRC Accounts, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accounts2007.htm

For 2007-08, figures are not yet available.

Working Tax Credit: Overpayments

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many cases there were of overpayment of the childcare element of the working tax credit in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [202142]

(2) what the level of overpayment of the childcare element of the working tax credit was in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [202183]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Child and working tax credits were introduced in April 2003.

Information on the number of awards with an overpayment of tax credits in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are produced in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments In." for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the steel for the construction of future aircraft carriers has been ordered by the Government directly; whether there is any precedent for steel orders being placed by any agency other than the relevant shipbuilders; and whether the steel ordered is for use in the construction of one or both future aircraft carriers for the Royal Navy. [202672]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* Steel for the construction of the Future Aircraft Carriers has been ordered by BAE Systems (Surface Fleet Solutions), on behalf of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, and not by the Government. Other than specific Government Furnished Equipment, it is normal practice for the shipyards to order build materials. The steel ordered is for use in the construction of both Future Aircraft Carriers.

Armed Forces: Graduates

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of armed forces personnel have a university degree. [202166]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The total number of armed forces personnel who are recorded as having a university degree or equivalent or higher is 17,469. This is around nine per cent. of the total strength.

The figure quoted is an estimate only, as the data transferred from the former single service legacy data systems to the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system had differing degrees of reliability. In addition, since the introduction of the JPA system, the responsibility for updating this specific type of data rests solely with the individual, and as such may not always be recorded.

Armed Forces: Joint Strike Fighter

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure that the Joint Strike Fighter is flown solely by Fleet Air Arm pilots. [201447]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Joint Carrier Aircraft will be capable of operating from both land and sea, and under current assumptions the future force will be jointly manned by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. The optimum force structure is currently being determined.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training exercises involving fighting in urban environments have been cancelled in each year since 2003. [201017]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 2003, no training exercises involving fighting in urban environments have been cancelled.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 996W, on bearskins, and pursuant to the answer to question 198792, when the last occasion was that bearskins were purchased by the armed forces. [202241]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD does not purchase bearskins, it purchases bearskin caps. There have been no pelts procured to produce bearskin caps for the MOD since 2003.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 791W, on armoured fighting vehicles, when he expects the contract for ordering the Ridgback armoured vehicle to be finalised. [201232]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD expects to contract with a manufacturer and a UK integrator for the Ridgback vehicle shortly. I am unable to provide further details as commercial negotiations are continuing.

BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings he or his officials have held with BAe and its representatives to discuss the al-Yamamah case since May 2005. [200527]

Des Browne: Meetings between MOD officials and representatives of BAE Systems at which the SFO investigation into the al-Yamamah programme was raised, took place on 17 June 2005, 3 November 2005, 26 June 2006, 28 September 2006 and 21 October 2006. In accordance with advice to the Department from the Serious Fraud Office, that office was informed of all of these meetings at the time.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197003]

Derek Twigg: Neither the Ministry of Defence nor its non-departmental public bodies currently participate in the Cycle to Work Scheme, however, the Department will be undertaking a review of this in the near future, and it does grant civilian staff advances of salary up to £500 for the purchase of bicycles for travel to work and for military personnel daily commuting by bicycle is encouraged through the payment of a rate of mileage allowance for the use of pedal cycles.

Defence: Internet

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's budget is for cyber-defence measures; and if he will make a statement. [201677]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Lynx Helicopters: Procurement

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of the Future Lynx helicopter project; and what estimate he has made of the annual cost, averaged over the lifetime of the project; [202001]

(2) what the in-service date for the Future Lynx helicopter is; [202002]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of engineers qualified in aeronautics employed on the Future Lynx programme at the latest date for which figures are available. [202004]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The value of the contact awarded to Agusta Westland in June 2006 for the development and manufacture of 70 Future Lynx aircraft is approximately £1 billion. There has been no cost escalation in this contract. The total cost of the Future Lynx project is estimated to be in the order of £10 billion. This figure captures all expenditure forecast through the life of the project, including the cost of the helicopters, supporting systems, manpower, training, maintenance, spares, consumables, fuel and infrastructure costs. While the aircraft are expected to be in-service for 30 years, these costs are incurred from initial concept stages to disposal; about 50 years. This equates to an average annual cost for the battlefield and maritime capabilities to be provided by the Future Lynx fleet of approximately £200 million.

The current in-service date for Future Lynx is 2014.

The Department does not have routine visibility of the total numbers of aeronautic qualified engineers employed throughout industry on specific projects. However in April 2008 Agusta Westland (AW), the prime contractor for the Future Lynx programme, estimated that during this year an average of 600 to 700 engineers, qualified in a wide range of aeronautics disciplines, will be employed on this project by AW and sub-contractors.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 26 February 2008, transferred from the Department for Transport, on the Avro Vulcan Project. [202163]

Derek Twigg: I replied to the hon. Member today.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of flying hours completed by individual helicopters of types *(a)* Apache, *(b)* Gazelle, *(c)* Lynx Mk3, *(d)* Lynx Mk7, *(e)* Lynx Mk8, *(f)* Lynx Mk9, *(g)* Merlin Mk1 and *(h)* Merlin Mk3 was in the last 12 months. [202152]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not possible to provide representative average hours flown for particular aircraft types over a given period since the number of airframes within each aircraft type fluctuates. However, for total hours flown I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 797W.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 7 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 103W, on special nuclear materials load carriers, what the timetable for the introduction of the new load carrier vehicles is; how many there will be; what the cost of each one is; whether they will be operated by the Ministry of Defence Police; how many miles each one is expected to complete before entry into service; and if he will make a statement. [202311]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current load carrier vehicles are now planned to continue in service until the end of 2010. It is planned to replace them with eight refurbished truck cargo heavy duty trailers and nine newly purchased tractor heads. I am withholding information on the cost of each vehicle as disclosure of this information would prejudice commercial interests. The role of the Ministry of Defence Police during the transport of nuclear materials is to ensure the overall security of any movements of special nuclear materials. The vehicles will be extensively tested for reliability before entry into service, including a programme of verification and validation activities against taut acceptance criteria. The mileage completed will be that necessary to successfully complete this programme.

Reserve Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservists exercises have been cancelled since 2003. [201020]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 2003, 17 reservist exercises have been cancelled.

Russia: Military Aircraft

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates, and for what duration unauthorised Russian military aircraft have penetrated UK airspace over the last 12 months. [202626]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last 12 months no Russian aircraft have penetrated UK national airspace. However, Russian aircraft have approached or entered the NATO Air Policing Area (APA) for which the UK has responsibility.

I am withholding the exact dates and the duration of time that Russian military aircraft have entered the APA as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Although I am withholding the exact dates, the following table gives the number of days within a month that Quick Reaction Alert aircraft have been launched to identify Russian military aircraft approaching or entering the APA.

	Number
2007	
April	1
May	0
June	0
July	2
August	1
September	3
October	4
November	5
December	2
2008	
January	2
February	0
March	1

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for knowingly allowing the consumption of alcohol on licensed premises by a child in each of the last two years. [191309]

Mr. Coaker: Children are unable to commit this offence, as this offence applies only to those persons who work at the licensed premises in a capacity which authorises them to prevent the consumption of alcohol by those aged under 18.

The number of persons issued with a caution, penalty notice for disorder, or proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of knowingly allowing consumption of alcohol by an under 18-year-old on relevant premises in England and Wales for the years 2005 to 2006 can be viewed in the following tables 1 and 2.

Number of persons issued with a caution, and proceeded against at magistrates courts for a certain alcohol offence in England and Wales for the years 2005 to 2006[1,2,3,4,5]

	2005		*2006*	
Offence description	*Proceeded against*	*Cautions*[3]	*Proceeded against*	*Cautions*[3]
Person knowingly allows consumption by individual aged under 18 of alcohol	0	0	0	2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Person knowingly allows consumption by individual aged under 18 of alcohol. Licensing Act 2003 s.150(2)
[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. Reprimands and final warnings are included in the above data.
[4] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises in England and Wales for the year 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises
2005	27
2006	14

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statute:
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises. s.50(2) of the Licensing Act 2003
[3] New legislative reference with effect from, 24 November 2005 on implementation of Licensing Act 2003.
4. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what severity limits distinguish between *(a)* mild and moderate and *(b)* moderate and substantial under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986; and whether (i) duration and (ii) intensity of suffering are taken into account. [201905]

Meg Hillier: Mild protocols are those that at worst give rise to slight or transitory minor adverse effects. Substantial protocols are those that may result in a major departure from the animal's usual state of health or well being. Moderate protocols can best be defined as those that fall between mild and substantial.

Severity limits cannot be determined by a single adverse effect. Professional judgment is required to consider and weigh all the expected adverse effects before assessing the appropriate severity limit. The duration and intensity of the suffering are always taken into account. Further details of the criteria used to assign severity limits to regulated procedures are set out in paragraphs 5.40 to 5.49 of the Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321). Copies of the guidance have been placed in the House Library.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of people served with *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders and *(b)* parental control orders have re-offended within two years since each was introduced. [202099]

Mr. Coaker: Data on re-offending while subject to an *(a)* antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) and *(b)* parenting order are not collected centrally.

Antisocial Behaviour: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the website www.respect.gov.uk in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception. [200380]

Mr. Coaker: The antisocial behaviour Respect website www.respect.gov.uk began in October 2006. In 2006-07, the expenditure on the website was £73,000 and in 2007-08 it was £118,000. The 2008-09 budget for the website is currently under review. The website is run on behalf of the Home Office by Broadcasting Support Services (BSS) who employ one member of staff to maintain the content on the website.

The number of unique visitors to the website each month for the period November 2006 to March 2008 is on the following table.

Monthly breakdown of unique visitors to the Respect Website

	Unique visitors
2006	
November	23,282
December	18,321
2007	
January	31,214
February	32,061
March	35,002
April	32,903
May	41,523
June	34,647
July	31,589
August	30,546
September	32,055
October	33,347
November	33,620
December	23,270
2008	
January	29,743
February	29,883
March	31,025

Total unique visitors for November 2006 to March 2008 is 524,031.

Border and Immigration Agency

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many casework files have been lost by the Border and Immigration Agency in each year since 1997. [199011]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not available in the format requested.

Crime: Genetics

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of crimes solved as a result of a DNA sample being on the national DNA database. [181245]

Meg Hillier: It is estimated that over the period April 1998 to March 2007, there have been approximately 240,000 detections in which a DNA match was available and/or played a part in solving the crime. A breakdown of this figure by year is given in the following table. Figures for the 2007-08 financial year are not yet available.

Number of detections in which a DNA match was available or played a part April 1998 to March 2007

	Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available	*Additional detections arising from DNA match*[1]	*Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part*
1998-99	6,151	n/a	6,151
1999-00	8,612	n/a	8,612
2000-01	14,785	n/a	14,785
2001-02	15,894	6,509	22,403
2002-03	21,098	12,717	33,815
2003-04	20,489	15,899	36,388
2004-05	19,873	15,732	35,605
2005-06	20,349	19,960	40,309
2006-07	19,949	21,199	41,148
Total	147,200	92,016	239,216

n/a = Not available.

[1] Additional detections may result from the original crime with the DNA match due to the identification of further offences through forensic linkage or through admission by the offender. On average, each 'crime detected in which a DNA match was available' now results in a further 1.06 crimes being detected.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Bury St Edmunds constituency in each of the last five years. [202711]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if she will make a statement. [197602]

Mr. Byrne: Neither the Department nor its executive non-departmental public bodies (the Independent Police Complaints Commission, the National Policing Improvement Agency, the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner, and the Security Industry Authority) offer a Cycle to Work scheme to their employees.

However, to encourage green commuting, the department does offer an interest free advance for staff purchasing a bicycle, and bicycle safety equipment, for travelling to and from the work place.

This is a tax free benefit in kind and the same tax treatment applies to employees of government departments as to any other employee.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were fined for speeding in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year since 1997; and how much was paid in fines for speeding in each area in each year. [200248]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 666W.

Extradition: Equatorial Guinea

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the extradition to Equatorial Guinea of people suspected of the participation in the attempted coup in that country. [198730]

Meg Hillier: As a matter of normal policy and practice, it would not be right to comment on particular events.

There are no general extradition arrangements in place between the United Kingdom and Equatorial Guinea. Where there are no such arrangements, the Extradition Act 2003 contains certain specific provisions whereby, in appropriate cases, ad hoc international arrangements may be entered into under which the possibility of extradition would then fall to be considered.

Extradition: USA

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been extradited from the UK to the US in the last three years. [200651]

Meg Hillier: For the period 2005 to 2007, a total of 42 people have been extradited from the UK to the US. 14 were extradited in 2005, 19 in 2006 and nine last year.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been extradited from the UK to the US to face charges for activities which would not be a criminal matter in the UK in the last three years. [200652]

Meg Hillier: None. The 2003 UK-US extradition treaty stipulates that an offence shall be an extradition offence if the conduct on which the offence is based is punishable under the laws of both states by deprivation of liberty for a period of one year or a more severe penalty. This is reflected in our domestic law. This means no-one can be extradited from one jurisdiction to the other for conduct that is not criminalised in both countries.

Immigration: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers detained by the police have absconded en route to immigration detention or removal centres in each of the last five years. [199009]

Mr. Byrne: In 2008 to date there has been one abscond en route from a police station to an immigration removal centre. The detainee was a failed asylum seeker.

In 2007 there were three absconds: one illegal entrant, two failed asylum seekers.

In 2006 there was one abscond who was an illegal entrant.

In 2005 there were two absconds, both failed asylum seekers.

Figures prior to 2005 are not available due to a change in escorting contractor.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each police force area were convicted for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [200391]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006, can be found in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. Information for 2007 will be available in late November 2008.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	18	32	6	9	27	15	20	18	25	21
Bedfordshire	14	8	2	2	5	10	9	7	6	4
Cambridgeshire	8	17	8	9	1	3	12	4	3	8
Cheshire	8	5	8	4	5	6	4	20	11	16
City of London	1	4	1	1	—	4	2	5	—	1
Cleveland	7	12	7	8	5	6	11	11	13	8
Cumbria	2	7	2	4	4	1	4	8	8	3
Derbyshire	4	6	13	12	5	14	6	15	17	13
Devon and Cornwall	16	13	10	8	10	13	16	15	12	11
Dorset	4	2	2	4	7	5	8	7	8	8
Durham	5	6	9	9	6	5	12	11	14	6
Essex	29	37	22	22	15	25	18	29	22	26
Gloucestershire	4	6	5	6	5	3	9	6	6	5
Greater Manchester	53	100	57	55	57	51	55	115	108	94
Hampshire	18	18	18	15	9	21	16	15	28	24
Hertfordshire	11	9	8	8	10	5	5	16	23	23
Humberside	4	5	5	7	8	9	9	14	17	11
Kent	13	20	11	22	29	18	22	18	11	28
Lancashire	10	32	12	19	17	11	15	22	27	18
Leicestershire	18	29	15	26	20	13	16	17	17	16
Lincolnshire	2	6	10	13	4	2	5	6	6	6
Merseyside	24	31	20	14	18	19	25	54	68	56
Metropolitan Police	238	270	221	173	224	257	297	268	302	317
Norfolk	4	8	7	6	4	5	2	12	9	9
North Yorkshire	5	11	7	7	3	1	6	3	3	5
Northamptonshire	5	6	11	4	4	5	4	4	7	2
Northumbria	33	43	43	32	40	26	45	38	38	34
Nottinghamshire	12	20	12	16	16	12	28	23	27	30
South Yorkshire	18	24	22	19	11	17	21	23	27	35
Staffordshire[3]	8	8	7	[3]—	6	16	8	15	13	9
Suffolk	2	2	4	8	5	4	7	7	6	8
Surrey	1	5	4	7	7	8	6	7	4	7
Sussex	8	10	8	4	11	9	14	18	21	15
Thames Valley	30	30	23	15	11	16	20	24	22	20
Warwickshire	9	5	5	4	3	7	4	7	6	6
West Mercia[4]	9	6	11	5	7	7	5	11	6	11
West Midlands	84	92	87	74	71	79	66	72	69	78
West Yorkshire	33	72	55	36	33	38	33	52	51	47
Wiltshire	1	7	5	6	8	6	4	6	10	7
Dyfed-Powys	3	5	2	7	3	3	5	4	4	1
Gwent	—	2	4	8	5	4	4	6	4	7
North Wales	6	4	7	1	1	3	3	7	5	8
South Wales	8	9	16	11	17	11	18	21	24	15
England and Wales	790	1,044	812	720	757	795	899	1,061	1,108	1,077

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 5(1) (Group 1) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 S.288 Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(l)(b) (Group 1) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288 Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious liquid etc.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(lA)(a) (Group 1) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288 Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A) (b),(c),(d)(e),(f) or (g) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288 Possessing or distributing other prohibited weapons
[5] Includes revisions to Cumbria and Sussex for the years 2004 and 2005
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice Reform

Personation

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has considered to reduce the incidence of crime related to identity fraud. [199739]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* Our plans for the national identity scheme will provide people with a highly secure means of protecting and proving their identity. We have already introduced new criminal offences, provided more powers to share data to combat fraud, ensured better co-ordination in prosecuting fraudsters, and worked in partnership with public and private sector organisations to raise public awareness.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average time required by a police officer to complete the formal documentation of criminal evidence following an arrest for *(a)* burglary, *(b)* car theft and *(c)* criminal damage; and what steps she has taken to (i) monitor and (ii) reduce the time spent on procedural tasks by police officers. [198571]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 28 April 2008, *Official Report;* column 100W.

Police: Managers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the name of each chief police officer (CPO) in England and Wales is; who the assistant CPO is in each case; and how long each CPO has been in post. [198517]

Mr. McNulty: The following table gives the name of each chief constable and deputy chief constable and the date of each chief constable's appointment.

Chief constables and deputy chief constables and equivalent ranks—as at 1 April 2008

Force	*Name*	*CC in post since*
Avon and Somerset	CC Colin Port	27 January 2005
	DCC Rob Beckley	
Bedfordshire	CC Gilhan Parker	4 July 2005
	DCC Martin Stuart	
Cambridgeshire	CC Julie Spence	10 December 2003
	DCC John Feavyour	
Cheshire	CC Peter Fahy	8 December 2002
	DCC Graeme Gerrard	
City of London	Commissioner Michael Bowron	16 February 2007
	Asst Commissioner Frank Armstrong	
Cleveland	CC Sean Price	31 March 2003
	DCC Ronald Hogg	
Cumbria	CC Craig Mackey	17 September 2007
	DCC Christine Twigg	
Derbyshire	CC Mick Creedon	1 October 2007
	DCC Alan Goodwin	
Devon and Cornwall	CC Stephen Otter	15 January 2007
	DCC Tony Melville	
Dorset	CC Martin Baker	1 January 2005
	DCC Christopher Lee	
Durham	CC Jon Stoddart	28 March 2007
	DCC Gary Barnett	
Dyfed-Powys	DCC Andrew Edwards (currently acting CC)	—
Essex	CC Roger Baker	1 July 2005
	DCC Andy Bliss	
Gloucestershire	CC Dr. Tim Brain	31 March 2001
	DCC Mark Polin	
Greater Manchester	DCC David Whatton (currently acting CC)	—
Gwent	CC Mike Tonge	1 April 2004
	DCC Michael Gianiasi	
Hampshire	CC Paul Kernaghan	21 September 1999
	DCC Ian Readhead	

Chief constables and deputy chief constables and equivalent ranks—as at 1 April 2008

Force	Name	CC in post since
Hertfordshire	CC Frank Whitsley	4 October 2004
	DCC Simon Parr	
Humberside	CC Tim Hollis	1 April 2005
	DCC David Griffin	
Kent	CC Michael Fuller	1 January 2004
	DCC Adrian Leppard	
Lancashire	CC Stephen Finnigan	23 March 2007
	DCC Michael Cunningham	
Leicestershire	CC Matthew Baggott	9 December 2002
	DCC David Lindley	
Lincolnshire	CC Tony Lake	24 September 2003
	DCC Richard Crompton	
Merseyside	CC Bernard Hogan-Howe	13 November 2004
	DCC Bernard Lawson	
Metropolitan	Commissioner Sir Ian Blair	1 February 2005
	Dep Commissioner Paul Stephenson	16 March 2005
	Asst Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur	30 April 2001
	Asst Commissioner Tim Godwin	16 January 2003
	Asst Commissioner Bob Quick	1 March 2008
	Asst Commissioner John Yates	3 January 2007
Norfolk	CC Ian McPherson	29 December 2006
	DCC Ian Learmonth	
Northamptonshire	CC Peter Maddison	5 May 2003
	DCC Davina Logan	
Northumbria	CC Michael Craik	1 April 2005
	DCC David Warcup	
North Wales	CC Richard Brunstrom	30 December 2000
	DCC Clive Wolfendale	
North Yorkshire	CC Grahame Maxwell	16 May 2007
	DCC Adam Briggs	
Nottinghamshire	CC Stephen Green	24 June 2000
	DCC Howard Roberts	
South Wales	CC Barbara Wilding	1 January 2004
	DCC Peter Vaughan	
South Yorkshire	CC Meredydd Hughes	1 September 2004
	DCC Bob Dyson	
Staffordshire	CC Chris Sims	24 September 2007
	DCC Adrian Lee	
Suffolk	CC Simon Ash	4 June 2007
	DCC Jacqui Chung	
Surrey	DCC Mark Rowley (currently temp CC)	—
Sussex	CC Martin Richards	1 October 2007
	Acting DCC Jeremy Paine	
Thames Valley	CC Sara Thornton	1 April 2007
	DCC Alex Marshall	
Warwickshire	CC Keith Bristow	8 December 2006
	DCC Andrew Parker	
West Mercia	CC Paul West	1 August 2003
	DCC Ian Arundale	
West Midlands	CC Sir Paul Scott-Lee	23 September 2002
	DCC Philip Gormley	
West Yorkshire	CC Sir Norman Bettison	29 January 2007
	DCC Julia Hodson	
Wiltshire	CC Brian Moore	1 January 2008
	DCC Stephen Long	

Sexual Offences

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each police force basic command unit area were *(a)* added to and *(b)* on the National Sex Offenders Register in each year since its inception. [202198]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the number of registered sex offenders in each police force basic command unit for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, before when these data were not broken down by basic command unit area. This information is published in local multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) annual reports, which are available in the House Libraries and at:

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp.

The number of registered sex offenders in each police force basic command unit was not collated in previous years.

		RSOs	
Area	BCU Name	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	Bristol	271	270
Avon and Somerset	South Gloucestershire	78	84

Area	BCU Name	RSOs 2005-06	RSOs 2006-07
Avon and Somerset	Bath and North East Somerset	72	72
Avon and Somerset	Somerset East	115	130
Avon and Somerset	Somerset West	163	158
Avon and Somerset	North Somerset	88	93
Bedfordshire	North Beds and Central	262	232
Bedfordshire	Luton	132	91
Cambridgeshire	Northern	153	172
Cambridgeshire	Central	123	122
Cambridgeshire	Southern	111	113
Cheshire	Western	154	174
Cheshire	Northern	198	212
Cheshire	Eastern	185	191
County Durham	North	163	180
County Durham	South	164	168
Cumbria	North	100	108
Cumbria	South	82	78
Cumbria	West	78	94
Derbyshire	A Division	119	114
Derbyshire	B Division	58	62
Derbyshire	C Division	190	175
Derbyshire	D Division	261	258
Devon and Cornwall	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	306	332
Devon and Cornwall	Plymouth	182	198
Devon and Cornwall	North and East Devon	196	188
Devon and Cornwall	South and West Devon	194	202
Devon and Cornwall	HQ Public Protection Unit	1	0
Dorset	Poole	122	63
Dorset	Eastern	59	80
Dorset	Western	69	128
Dorset	Bournemouth	147	144
Dyfed-Powys	Carmarthenshire	99	93
Dyfed-Powys	Ceredigion	43	40
Dyfed-Powys	Pembrokeshire	73	76
Dyfed-Powys	Powys	93	88
Essex	South Western	183	161
Essex	South Eastern	157	156
Essex	Eastern	168	145
Essex	Western	110	107
Essex	Central	184	166
Gloucestershire	Cheltenham and Tewkesbury	106	104
Gloucestershire	Stroud and Cotswolds	70	76
Gloucestershire	Gloucester and Forest	135	131
Greater Manchester	North Manchester	149	148
Greater Manchester	Metropolitan	167	165
Greater Manchester	South Manchester	115	121
Greater Manchester	Salford	158	158
Greater Manchester	Tameside	104	113
Greater Manchester	Stockport	139	141
Greater Manchester	Bolton	155	171
Greater Manchester	Wigan	154	162
Greater Manchester	Trafford	95	91
Greater Manchester	Bury	129	145
Greater Manchester	Rochdale	133	149
Greater Manchester	Oldham	145	158
Gwent	A Division (Newport)	120	128
Gwent	B Division (Monmouthshire and Torfaen)	109	116
Gwent	C Division (Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly)	162	178
Hampshire	Central OUC	289	n/a
Hampshire	Isle of Wight OUC	83	n/a
Hampshire	North and East OUC	170	n/a
Hampshire	Portsmouth OUC	219	n/a
Hampshire	Southampton OUC	188	n/a
Hampshire	Western OUC	169	n/a
Hertfordshire	East and North Herts	119	165
Hertfordshire	Central Herts	116	118
Hertfordshire	Watford and Three Rivers	162	117
Humberside	Hull	260	266
Humberside	Grimsby	135	
Humberside	Scunthorpe	150	131
Humberside	East Riding of Yorkshire	170	142
Kent	North Kent	112	92
Kent	West Kent	95	135
Kent	Maidstone	115	188
Kent	Medway	175	186
Kent	Swale	68	n/a
Kent	Canterbury	73	n/a
Kent	Thanet	119	n/a
Kent	South East Kent	113	191
Kent	Weald	71	135
Lancashire	Western	198	224
Lancashire	Northern	167	179
Lancashire	Southern	135	148
Lancashire	Central	75	75
Lancashire	Eastern	236	231
Lancashire	Pennine	130	141
Leicestershire	North	117	147
Leicestershire	East	122	125
Leicestershire	West	161	0
Leicestershire	Central	131	262
Lincolnshire	East	118	126
Lincolnshire	South	108	109
Lincolnshire	West	175	189
London	Barking and Dagenham	70	84
London	Barnet	79	82
London	Bexley	57	78
London	Brent	132	108
London	Bromley	128	106
London	Camden	73	92
London	Croydon	142	150
London	Ealing	145	130
London	Enfield	98	98
London	Greenwich	115	101
London	Hackney	106	129
London	Hammersmith and Fulham	52	53
London	Haringey	102	122
London	Harrow	64	68
London	Havering	49	65
London	Hillingdon	78	95
London	Hounslow	71	82

Area	BCU Name	RSOs 2005-06	RSOs 2006-07
London	Islington	92	97
London	Kensington and Chelsea	77	72
London	Kingston	40	51
London	Lambeth	184	167
London	Lewisham	164	174
London	Merton	77	63
London	Newham	117	115
London	Redbridge	76	88
London	Richmond	69	62
London	Southwark	150	170
London	Sutton	57	53
London	Tower Hamlets	81	84
London	Waltham Forest	165	122
London	Wandsworth	126	103
London	Westminster	83	82
London	City of London	3	5
Merseyside	Liverpool North	234	232
Merseyside	Liverpool South	239	267
Merseyside	Sefton	167	160
Merseyside	Wirral	65	67
Merseyside	St Helens	95	92
Merseyside	Knowsley	145	141
Norfolk	Eastern	165	184
Norfolk	Central	222	234
Norfolk	Western	115	128
North Wales	Eastern	158	165
North Wales	Western	104	98
North Wales	Central	133	142
North Yorkshire	Central	140	157
North Yorkshire	Western	83	89
North Yorkshire	Eastern	115	113
Northamptonshire	North	137	124
Northamptonshire	West	207	231
Northumbria	Newcastle	163	239
Northumbria	Sunderland	63	172
Northumbria	Northumberland	125	137
Northumbria	South Tyneside	127	61
Northumbria	North Tyneside	284	125
Northumbria	Gateshead	136	136
Nottinghamshire	A Division (Mansfield and Ashfield)	150	166
Nottinghamshire	B Division (Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood)	108	114
Nottinghamshire	C Division (Nottingham City)	327	341
Nottinghamshire	D Division (South Notts Including Rushcliffe, Gedling and Broxtowe Boroughs)	127	126
South Wales	A Division (Rhondda Cynon Taff / Merthyr Tydfil)	149	136
South Wales	C Division (Cardiff)	211	232
South Wales	E Division (Vale of Glamorgan)	72	69
South Wales	F Division (Bridgend)	61	60
South Wales	G Division (Neath Port Talbot)	60	67
South Wales	H Division (Swansea)	127	131
South Yorkshire	Barnsley	12	118
South Yorkshire	Doncaster	233	242
South Yorkshire	Rotherham	157	162
South Yorkshire	Sheffield One	91	96
South Yorkshire	Sheffield Two	194	212
South Yorkshire	PPU	4	0
Staffordshire	North Staffs	106	113
Staffordshire	Chase	165	176
Staffordshire	Stoke-on-Trent	214	242
Staffordshire	Trent Valley	142	145
Suffolk	West	106	102
Suffolk	Southern	172	185
Suffolk Surrey	Eastern	115	126
Surrey	A Division (North Surrey)	79	93
Surrey	B Division (East Surrey)	108	109
Surrey	C Division (West Surrey)	118	129
Surrey	D Division (North West Surrey)	85	95
Sussex	West Downs	226	233
Sussex	North Downs	145	138
Sussex	East Sussex	278	273
Sussex	Brighton and Hove	155	145
Sussex	Gatwick	0	0
Teesside	Hartlepool	41	42
Teesside	Stockton	106	115
Teesside	Middlesbrough	124	119
Teesside	Redcar and Cleveland	83	81
Thames Valley	Oxfordshire	306	323
Thames Valley	West Berkshire	224	227
Thames Valley	East Berkshire	141	152
Thames Valley	Milton Keynes	129	130
Thames Valley	Buckinghamshire	136	150
Warwickshire	North	132	148
Warwickshire	South	100	111
West Mercia	South Worcs	174	193
West Mercia	North Worcs	145	142
West Mercia	Hereford	106	106
West Mercia	Telford	95	99
West Mercia	Shropshire	112	109
West Midlands	Birmingham D1	134	119
West Midlands	Birmingham D2	93	88
West Midlands	Birmingham D3	117	127
West Midlands	Birmingham E1	125	117
West Midlands	Birmingham E2	76	78
West Midlands	Birmingham E3	91	83
West Midlands	Birmingham F1	37	40
West Midlands	Birmingham F2	100	79
West Midlands	Birmingham F3	86	61
West Midlands	Wolverhampton G1	88	78
West Midlands	Wolverhampton G2	131	128
West Midlands	Walsall H1	78	79
West Midlands	Walsall H2	78	80
West Midlands	Dudley J1	86	95
West Midlands	Dudley J2	87	84
West Midlands	Sandwell K1	109	99
West Midlands	Sandwell K2	91	117
West Midlands	Solihull L	103	104
West Midlands	Coventry M1	77	72
West Midlands	Coventry M2	73	62
West Midlands	Coventry M3	65	60
West Yorkshire	Pudsey and Weetwood	204	200
West Yorkshire	Chapeltown	81	160
West Yorkshire	Kilingbeck	88	n/a
West Yorkshire	City and Holbeck	139	152
West Yorkshire	Wakefield and Pontefract	207	204
West Yorkshire	Kirklees	272	277
West Yorkshire	Calderdale	118	119
West Yorkshire	Bradford South	96	89
West Yorkshire	Bradford North	94	107
West Yorkshire	Keighley	74	79
Wiltshire	A Division (Kennet and Salisbury)	76	84
Wiltshire	B Division (North and West Wiltshire)	126	137
Wiltshire	C Division (Swindon Borough)	114	135

Stop and Search

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their vehicle stopped and searched under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 in each year since 1997; and how many of those were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of (i) a notifiable offence and (ii) a terrorism-related offence in (A) each police force area and (B) England and Wales. [200253]

Mr. Coaker: The available information held by the Ministry of Justice is given in the following table for the period 1998-99 to 2005-06 (latest available). Information on searches of 'persons' and 'vehicles only' cannot be separately identified prior to 1998-99. The information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on stop and searches is not linked with details of any subsequent prosecutions and convictions.

Searches of vehicles[1] under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, by police force area, 1998-99 to 2005-06, England and Wales

Police force area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04[2]*	*2004-05[2]*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	716	672	399	504	696	458	265	149
Bedfordshire	40	58	39	53	48	48	15	12
Cambridgeshire	90	77	114	207	223	202	166	18
Cheshire	966	796	603	364	634	350	888	368
Cleveland	277	190	218	159	150	129	125	99
Cumbria	475	360	284	281	96	78	91	134
Derbyshire	1,259	1,583	500	431	433	424	366	248
Devon and Cornwall	944	702	601	707	481	293	92	126
Dorset	241	450	474	193	157	126	74	77
Durham	84	93	64	117	85	79	84	39
Essex	725	887	1,115	775	518	157	141	66
Gloucestershire	519	650	562	567	629	560	618	30
Greater Manchester	1,752	1,555	1,338	1,323	1,571	678	713	358
Hampshire	207	448	243	202	182	203	221	96
Hertfordshire	488	407	372	304	31	185	244	86
Humberside	—	6	144	23	170	144	164	25
Kent	7,218	5,657	2,595	1,230	535	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	611	438	695	631	694	608	281
Leicestershire	878	303	439	1,069	471	814	1,753	2,266
Lincolnshire	734	314	149	155	219	217	233	50
London, City of	2	10	13	5	25	5	30	40
Merseyside	1,095	581	1,753	1,770	1,313	200	143	117
Metropolitan Police	4,663	2,552	2,791	2,899	4,058	1,390	1,129	1,174
Norfolk	522	339	463	1,084	130	179	164	40
Northamptonshire	181	337	278	268	296	246	79	91
Northumbria	1,147	632	437	377	365	193	196	246
North Yorkshire	396	386	202	251	226	179	47	52
Nottinghamshire	241	140	286	269	349	820	101	235
South Yorkshire	703	863	929	734	681	419	424	517
Staffordshire	210	173	149	205	214	279	161	139
Suffolk	812	490	278	259	316	153	204	1,021
Surrey	119	71	82	69	78	91	63	43
Sussex	480	639	738	759	445	486	545	613
Thames Valley	773	467	437	343	607	274	213	264
Warwickshire	304	424	331	272	229	173	105	114
West Mercia	460	3,416	2,317	1,086	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	245	35	—	—	—	40	103	—
West Yorkshire	4,310	4,510	3,219	4,773	7,748	1,115	1,429	1,045
Wiltshire	813	542	432	349	—	—	—	—
Dyfed Powys	5,299	4,131	357	73	56	62	59	79
Gwent	1,058	812	682	731	422	270	303	116
North Wales	744	636	372	296	429	144	82	40
South Wales	826	1,008	741	806	412	168	118	8
England and Wales	43,016	39,013	27,978	27,037	26,359	12,725	12,559	10,522

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only, or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. Data given in the table are where a vehicle only has been searched.

[2] Figures have been updated since publication of the respective bulletins.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:

Stops/Searches collection held by Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their vehicle stopped and searched under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in each year since 1997; and how many of those were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of (i) a notifiable offence and (ii) a terrorism-related offence in (A) each police force area and (B) England and Wales. [200254]

Mr. Coaker: The available information held by the Ministry of Justice is given in the following table for the period 1998-99 to 2005-06. Information on searches of 'persons' and 'vehicles only' cannot be separately identified prior to 1998-99.

The information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on stop and searches is not linked with details of any subsequent prosecutions and convictions and we therefore cannot identify the individual circumstances of those offenders who have been prosecuted and convicted of notifiable and terrorism related offences.

Searches of vehicles[1] under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, by police force area, 1998-99 to 2005-06: England and Wales

	Period							
Police force area	*1998-99[2]*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03[2]*	*2003-04[2]*	*2004-05[2]*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	1	129	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	12	12	2	72	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	18	1	—	3	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	2	27	15	25	12	15	4
Hampshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	10	25	28	1	5	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	5	2	2	3	1
Leicestershire	—	—	—	5	2	1	—	2
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
London, City of	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	8
Metropolitan Police	—	2	7	65	117	11	1	3
Norfolk	—	7	—	7	—	1	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Nottinghamshire	5	12	3	—	7	—	5	2
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
Staffordshire	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	28	3	4	—	—	1
Surrey	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5
Thames Valley	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	19	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	2	—	—	—	—	6	3	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	137	56	1	1	—
Wiltshire	38	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed Powys	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
England and Wales	82	51	124	262	232	243	36	28

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only, or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. Data given in the table are where a vehicle only has been searched.

[2] Figures have been updated since publication of the respective bulletins.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:

Stops/searches collection held by Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* age was of each person stopped under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in each year since the relevant provisions came into force. [200343]

Mr. Coaker: The available information held by the Ministry of Justice is given in the following table for the period 1998-99 to 2005-06 which shows the total number of stop and searches of persons by ethnic appearance under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

Information on stop and searches by sex and age is not held centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Total stop and searches of persons under s60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in England and Wales, by ethnic appearance, 1998-99 to 2005-06

	Ethnic appearance					
	White	Black	Asian	Other	Not known	Total
1998-99	4,503	338	294	50	1,869	7,054
1999-2000	4,728	1,185	744	227	269	7,153
2000-01	5,054	3,096	2,704	187	162	11,203
2001-02	9,172	4,435	4,441	269	322	18,639
2002-03	24,179	11,204	6,979	1,095	712	44,169
2003-04	23,868	9,385	5,627	688	625	40,193
2004-05	23,245	9,832	6,844	809	571	41,301
2005-06	22,993	7,202	4,857	596	600	36,248

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 85-6W, on stop and search, how many times the power to authorise stop and search for offensive weapons within a specified area for the period of 24 hours under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 was used by a senior police officer in each year since 2005-06. [201595]

Mr. Coaker: The 2005-06 information given in the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 85-6W, is the most recent available. Data for 2006-07 will be published later this year.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government *(a)* has set and *(b)* plans to set targets for stop and searches by police officers in England and Wales. [201600]

Mr. Coaker: The use of stop and search powers is an operational matter for police officers in light of local policing priorities and individual circumstances, therefore, no Government targets have been set for stop and search and there are no plans to set any.

Surveillance: Members

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions hon. Members who have taken the Oath have been the subject of *(a)* surveillance, *(b)* intercept since 1997; on how many occasions hon. Members have been party to conversations or meetings while the other person has been the subject of *(a)* surveillance and *(b)* intercept since 1997; and what the terms of the Wilson doctrine are. [189246]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* It has been the longstanding practice for successive Governments not to comment on surveillance or interception operations. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the then Prime Minister Tony Blair's written answer to Norman Baker MP on the terms of the Wilson Doctrine on 19 December 2001, *Official Report*, column 367W, and his subsequent confirmation that it continues to apply 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 95 and 96WS. His earlier written reply to a question by Norman Baker on 4 December 1997, *Official Report*, column 321W, made it clear that the Wilson Doctrine applied to telephone interception and to the use of electronic surveillance by any of the three security and intelligence agencies. This is still the position.

As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 539, conversations between Members of Parliament doing their constituency business with their constituents should be considered as "confidential information", and treated in the same way as other confidential information, such as conversations between a person and their lawyer or Minister of Religion. The relevant Codes of Practice will be amended.

Tobacco: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* offences were recorded, *(b)* police cautions have been issued and *(c)* fines have been imposed on (i) confectioners and tobacconists and (ii) other retailers selling tobacco products to those aged under 16 in each year since 1997; and what the average fine levied in each of those years was. [200252]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling tobacco products to those aged under 16 years is not collected centrally. This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fines have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the following table for 1997-2006. No information is collected centrally to distinguisn between confectionists, tobacconists and other retailers.

Offenders[1] cautioned[2] and fined for selling tobacco etc. to persons under 16[3] England and Wales

	Number of police cautions issued	Number of fines imposed	Average fine amount (£)
1997	5	90	238
1998	—	115	226
1999	3	90	237
2000	2	113	349
2001	1	74	301
2002	2	67	283
2003	—	82	322
2004	—	50	274
2005	2	56	328
2006	3	51	330

[1] Companies, public bodies, etc.
[2] These data are on a principal offence basis.
[3] Children and Young Persons Act 1933 sec. 7 as amended by the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 sec. 1
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Video Games: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in each police force area were recorded in respect of retailers selling video games or DVDs to underage customers in each year since 1997; how many related police cautions were issued in each of those years; and (i) how many related fines were issued and (ii) what the average fine levied was in each of those years. [200251]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling video games or DVDs to underage customers is not collected centrally. This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fines have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the following table for 1997-2006.

Offenders[1] cautioned[2] and fined for supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification[3] England and Wales

	Number of police cautions issued	Number of fines imposed	Average fine amount (£)
1997	1	15	519
1998	—	18	440
1999	—	33	798
2000	—	16	1,028
2001	—	9	1,378
2002	—	12	1,079
2003	1	14	921
2004	—	6	775
2005	—	8	489
2006	—	8	1,244

[1] Companies, public bodies, etc.
[2] These data are on a principal offence basis.
[3] Video Recording Act 1984 S.11 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.88 (4)
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Video Recordings: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many test purchases relating to the sale of video works to under age persons *(a)* were undertaken and *(b)* led to prosecution in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [191801]

Mr. Coaker: Both the police and Trading Standards can routinely conduct test purchases locally in line with local operational priorities. These details are not centrally collated by the Home Office, so no records of all such test purchases are available.

Data held centrally on prosecutions cannot separately identify "test purchases" or criminal proceedings brought before court as a result of "test purchase" operations.

JUSTICE

Apex Communications

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments were made from the public purse, on what dates, and for what purposes to Euro RSCG Apex Communications in respect of *(a)* the Carter Review of Prisons and *(b)* the Review of Funding of Political Parties; and what ongoing financial or contractual arrangements exist in each case. [202266]

Maria Eagle: The responses covering each review are as follows:

(a) Carter Review of Prisons

Dates of invoices: 30 July 2007, 24 August 2007, 21 September 2007, 22 October 2007, 28 November 2007

Amounts: £2,350.00 per invoice

Total payments: £11,750.00

Purpose: fee for communications support

The work of Lord Carter's Review of Prisons has concluded therefore no ongoing financial or contractual arrangements exist.

(b) Review of the Funding of Political Parties

Date of invoice: 26 March 2007

Amount: £9,940.50

Purpose: fee for communications support

Date of invoice: 8 August 2007

Amount: £5,875.00

Purpose: fee for communications support

Date of invoice: 28 November 2007

Amount: £4,700.00

Purpose: Work relating to the conclusion of the inter-party talks

Date of invoice: 28 January 2008

Amount: £1,175.00

Purpose: Additional work for Sir Hayden Phillips

All figures are inclusive of VAT.

These invoices include work carried out by Euro RSCG Apex Communications for both the Review of the Funding of Political Parties and the Inter-Party Talks on Party Funding. Both of the reviews have concluded so there are no ongoing financial or contractual arrangements.

Courts: Religion

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to proposals that religious court should be allowed to arbitrate on some family and matrimonial disputes; and if he will make a statement. [202016]

Bridget Prentice: The United Kingdom does not accommodate religious legal systems as such in this country's laws and there is no intention to change this. Under section 10A of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, as amended by the Divorce (Religious Marriages) Act 2002, a court may refuse a decree absolute of divorce to parties who have not given their spouses a religious divorce although it does not allow recognition of the religious divorce. Currently, this provision only applies to members of the Jewish faith. However, it is

open to any prescribed religious group to apply to the Lord Chancellor for recognition under this law should it wish to do so.

In Muslim family disputes, the parties may choose to have their financial affairs and decisions about their children decided by a Sharia Council. If the parties wish to have that decision recognised by English authorities, they are at liberty to draft a consent order embodying the terms of the agreement and submit it to an English or Welsh court. This allows it to be scrutinised by an English or Welsh judge to ensure that it complies with English legal tenets. If the decision is made into a court order the English and Welsh courts can enforce it.

Any member of any community has the right to refer to an English court at any point, particularly in the event that they feel pressured or coerced to resolve an issue in a way with which they feel uncomfortable.

Custodial Treatment: Young People

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* juvenile and *(b)* young adult offenders were placed in custody for a breach of a community order in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [199960]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the numbers of juveniles (aged under 18) and young adults (aged 18 to 20) received into all prison establishments in England and Wales for breach of all community sentences between 2002 and 2006, the latest year for which figures are available:

	Under 18s	*Age 18-20*
2002	187	428
2003	242	555
2004	365	621
2005	404	695
2006	448	911

It is not possible to separately identify those received into prison for breach of a specific community sentence such as a community order.

Since 2001-02 the National Probation Service has achieved marked improvements in enforcement. The target is to take breach action within 10 working days of a second unacceptable failure to comply with an order (or third unacceptable failure to comply with a licence) in 90 per cent. of cases. The improvements are shown in the table as follows:

Enforcement (target = 90 per cent.)

	Community Orders	*Licences*	*Total*
2001-02	52	58	53
2002-03	64	63	64
2003-04	77	79	77
2004-05	87	85	87
2005-06	91	93	91
2006-07	92	94	92
2007-08 (April to December)	94	96	94

Over the same period, compliance levels have also increased (where compliance is defined as the proportion of orders and licences reaching the six months stage without requiring breach action), as shown.

Compliance

	Community Orders	*Licences*	*Total*
2001-02	55	87	60
2002-03	55	88	62
2003-04	56	89	62
2004-05	59	92	66
2005-06	65	92	70
2006-07	67	91	72
2007-08 (April to December)	67	91	71

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197002]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry is currently implementing a salary sacrifice Cycle to Work scheme for its employees. This scheme supports employees in taking greener journeys, by enabling employers to loan a cycle to an employee, for an agreed period. The Ministry also offers other tax free benefits in kind to encourage green commuting, namely access to an advance of salary up to £500 for the purchase of a bicycle and safety equipment. The same tax rules apply to benefits in kind provided to employees of Government Departments as to any other employee. Prison Service/NOMS currently does not offer a Cycle to Work Scheme.

The Ministry's non-departmental public bodies have the authority to determine their own Cycle to Work schemes. The Legal Services Commission is planning to implement the scheme and this is also under consideration by the Office of the Information Commissioner. Advances for the purchase of a bicycle are offered by the Criminal Cases Review Commission, Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority and the Legal Services Commission.

Dangerous Driving

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to bringing forward proposals to *(a)* make causing serious injury an aggravating factor when sentencing for persons convicted of dangerous driving, *(b)* introduce a new offence of causing serious injury by dangerous driving and *(c)* increase the maximum sentence for persons convicted of dangerous driving; and if he will make a statement. [202239]

Maria Eagle: The Sentencing Guidelines Council guideline on seriousness deals with aggravating factors to be taken into account when sentencing generally. It includes among the factors indicating a more than usually serious degree of harm 'an especially serious physical or psychological effect on the victim, even if unintended'.

Following the comprehensive "Review of Road Traffic Offences involving Bad Driving" undertaken jointly by the Home Office and Department for Transport we introduced a range of measures including an increase in penalties for careless driving and new offences of causing death by careless driving or driving while disqualified, unlicensed or uninsured in the Road Safety Act 2006. These changes follow on from the increases in penalties for causing death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs, and causing death through aggravated vehicle-taking, in the Criminal Justice Act 2003. These changes take account of the special place that offences causing death have in the criminal law.

While we appreciate that in other cases bad driving can have tragic consequences we do not think separate offences are appropriate. This is a particularly difficult area of law as the consequences of the offender's action are often wholly disproportionate to his culpability. We have no plans to increase the penalty for dangerous driving or for a further review at this time.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many public consultations were held by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and how many respondents took part in each consultation. [198631]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is in the following table:

Title of consultation	*Number of respondents*
Department for Constitutional Affairs	
2005 (30 consultations published)	
Child Trust Fund Tax Appeals—The General Commissioners (Jurisdiction and Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations 2005	[1]7
Special Commissioners (Jurisdiction and Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations 2005	[2]5
Armed Forces pensions appeals	[3]15
Jury Research and Impropriety	41
Asylum and Immigration Tribunal—Fast Track Procedure Rules	6
A Single Civil Court?	131
Reform of Section 703 Tax Tribunal Appeal Routes	8
Changes to the Pensions Appeal Tribunal Rules 1980: Appeals to the Social Security Commissioners	[4]13
Requirements for imprints on election material—alterations to be made to	8
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	
Care Standards Tribunal (CST): Lord Chancellor's Direction bringing cases before the Protection of Children Act Tribunal (POC AT) into the Scope of Civil Legal Aid.	2
Administration of Estates—Review of the Statutory Legacy	33
European Small Claims Procedure	21
Barnet Family Pilot	15
Telephone hearings in civil proceedings	34
Dyfed Powys local bench merger	24
West Mercia/Shropshire local bench merger	55
Wetherby court closure	15
EU divorce green paper	9
Civil partnerships—changes to procedures	10
Proposed changes to civil appeal rules	27
Proposed changes to the Representation of the People Regulations	85
Justices' Clerks: delegation of powers	75
Civil and Family Court Fee Increases	49
Gravesend Court Closure	16
Focusing Judicial Resources Appropriately	156
Authorisations to sit in family proceedings courts, and youth courts	299
Specialisation of family magistrates	291
CORE: the implementation of national access arrangements	118
Alteration of the Local Justice Areas of Chorley, Ormskirk and South Ribble	68
Parliamentary Costs Acts—proposed consolidation	2
2006 (28 consultations published)	
Lasting powers of attorney—forms and guidance Mental Capacity Act	118
Civil Procedure Rules Section 36	61
Lands Tribunal (Amendment) Rules 2006	4
Inquiries Act rules	48
Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice	161
Criminal Defence Service Regulations	11
Gwent local justice area merger	10
A Model for the Provision of Justices' Clerks	212
Data Protection Act s60	63
Court of Protection Rules: Mental Capacity Act 1995	39
Openness in the Family Courts—Confidence and Confidentiality	[5]245
Compensation (Claims Management Services) Regulations 2006 and the Regulatory Rules—Compensation Bill	60
Legal Aid: a sustainable future (joint consultation with Legal Services Commission)	2372
Asylum and Immigration Tribunal Procedure Rules	8
Return to Practice by Former Salaried Judges	26
London Region Family Courts Centres	62
Judges' power to dismiss representatives in very high cost cases	13
Compensation Act 2006: authorisation application form and fee levels	12
Family Procedure Rules	45
Separate Representation of Children	95
The Gambling Appeals Tribunal draft rules 2007	10
Compensation Act 2006: exemptions from the requirement for authorisation: and trade union code of practice	61
Mental Capacity Act 2005: Court of Protection and Office of the Public Guardian Fees	65
Claims Management Services Tribunal	3
Local Land Charges	177
Court of Protection: Legal Aid funding	10
FOI fees increase	324
Prisoners' voting rights	88
2007 (36 consultations published)	
Local Justice Area merger South Somerset and Mendip	30
Bailiff regulation Regulatory Impact Assessment	438
Value Added Tax and Duties Tribunal—Amending Rules	6
Professional Indemnity Insurance—Claims Management Regulation	32
Civil Court Fees	77
Part 46 Civil Procedure Rules—Fast Track Trial Costs	34
Cost Recovery in Pro Bono Assisted Cases	20
Case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims	271
Damages	102
Ministry of Justice consultations 9 May 2007 onwards	
Openness in the Family Courts—a new approach	112

Title of consultation	Number of respondents
Cremation Regulations	73
Referral to coroners	74
Quality Assurance Scheme for publicly funded criminal defence advocates	22
Review of Part 6 of the Civil Procedure Rules: Service of documents	60
Network Access Agreements—Appeal Rules for Adjudicator to Land Registry	11
Conditional Fee Agreements—Fixed Recoverable Success Fees in publication proceedings	20
Fees for the Marked Register of Electors produced at UK elections	97
Regulation of Claims Management Services—consultation on fee levels 2008-09	7
Charity Tribunal Draft Rules 2007	23
Criminal Defence Service (Recovery of Defence Costs Orders) Regulations 2001	11
Changes to the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme—de-prescribing the penalty notice form	21
The debt claim process: helping people in debt to engage with the problem	25
General Commissioners of Income Tax	4
Judicial Appointments: the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary	34
War-making powers and international treaties	26
Freedom of Information Act 2000: Designation of additional public authorities	135
Consumer Credit Appeals Tribunal	48
Asylum and Immigration Tribunal Rules	14
NOMS Strategic Plan on Reducing Re-offending	76
NOMS 3rd sector action plan	52
NOMS: Believing We Can	76
Transforming Tribunals	138
Forced Marriage—Third Party Applicants	53
Public law family fees	111
MoJ Third Sector Strategy	49
Improving the Criminal Trial Process for Young Witnesses (OCJR)	58
2008 consultations published up to Thursday 10 April 2008	
Administration Orders and Enforcement Restriction Orders—setting the parameters	c46
Forced Marriage Act—court procedure rules	[6]
Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act: Eligibility for Judicial Appointment	[7]
Enhancing procedural rights and judicial co-operation in the EU	c7
Rome I	[8]
Best Value in Probation	[9]
Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) consultations published 1 January 2005—8 May 2007	
2005	
Victims' Code of Practice (OCJR)	101
Restructuring Probation to Reduce Reoffending (NOMS)	748
The Witness Charter: new standards of care for witnesses in the CJS (OCJR)	86
Rebuilding Lives—supporting victims of crime (OCJR)	191
2006	
Convicting Rapists and Protecting Victims—Justice for Victims of Rape (OCJR)	94
Quashing Convictions (OCJR)	33
Making sentencing clearer (NOMS)	82

[1] CPL) 01/05 Child Trust Fund Tax Appeals Regulations 2005 (The General Commissioners (Jurisdiction and Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations 2005)— copies of the consultation paper were sent to seven consultees initially. No comments were received about the detail of the Regulations, and no substantive changes were made to the regulations following the consultation exercise.

[2] CP(L) 02/05 Special Commissioners Regulations 2005 (The Special Commissioners (Jurisdiction and Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations 2005)—copies of the consultation paper were sent to five consultees initially. No comments were received about the detail of the Regulations, and no substantive changes were made to the regulations following the consultation exercise.

[3] CP(L) 03/05 Armed forces pensions appeals (The Social Security Commissioners (Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations 2005)—copies of the consultation paper were sent to fifteen consultees initially. Minor technical amendments were made to reflect comments from the Chief Social Security Commissioner for Great Britain and the Legal Adviser to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments. As these regulations were subject to the affirmative Parliamentary procedure, they were debated in Parliament following the consultation exercise.

[4] CP(L) 08/05 Pension Appeal Tribunal Rules 1980: Appeals to the Social Security Commissioners (The Pensions Appeal Tribunals (England and Wales) (Amendment) Rules 2005)—copies of the consultation paper were sent to thirteen consultees initially. Some amendments were made to reflect comments from the Pensions Appeal Tribunal and the Social Security Commissioners.

[5] Plus c200 responses from children and young people.

[6] Ongoing consultation (ends 24/4).

[7] Ongoing consultation (ends 29/4).

[8] Ongoing consultation (ends 25/6).

[9] Ongoing consultation (ends 2/7)

Elections: Slough

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department plans to take in response to the recommendations of the Electoral Commissioner in the recent electoral court case in Slough. [201559]

Bridget Prentice: We have noted the findings and comments in the judgment of the election court, Since 2005, the Government have introduced a range of new measures to strengthen the integrity of our electoral system, and there have been very few proven incidents of fraud since the new measures were brought into force. They include:

Electoral administrators write to everyone who has applied for a postal vote acknowledging receipt of their application and confirming the outcome—this will alert people to any applications for postal votes made falsely on their behalf.

Postal vote applicants have to specify a reason if they want their postal vote to be sent to an address other than that at which they are registered.

Administrators get more time to check postal vote applications because people have to apply for a postal vote a minimum of 11 working days before the close of poll (the previous minimum was six days).

New requirement for electors to provide personal identifiers (signature and date of birth) if they wish to have a postal vote. The identifiers must be replicated by elector when they subsequently cast their postal vote, and will be cross-checked with the original samples to ensure the postal vote is valid.

New offence of falsely applying for a postal or proxy vote.

After every election a list of all those who voted by post is published which will enable individuals to check that their vote was counted. In an investigation the police will be able to check up with any individual whether they did actually vote by post or whether their vote was stolen.

New criminal offence of supplying false information (or failing to supply information) to the electoral registration officer at any time.

Strengthened offence of undue influence, which will make it easier to prosecute, even if the undue influence does not affect the way someone votes.

Clear new powers for electoral administrators to cross check applications to register to vote against other information the council holds.

We will take account of the election court's judgement in any further development on electoral registration and postal voting processes and legislation.

Legal Aid: Contracts

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of criminal law practitioners who will apply for a new criminal legal aid contract in 2008. [200923]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission is currently inviting applications for a new criminal legal aid contract due to take effect in July 2008. Applications are being returned at a steady rate but the final number will not be known until after the application period closes on 2 May 2008.

The previous tender exercise for the January 2008 General Criminal Contract resulted in 2,295 applications from firms that already had a contract and a further 90 applications from new providers, ensuring full coverage for publicly-funded defence services in police stations and courts across England and Wales.

Magistrates Courts

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases where defendants have been charged and appeared before a magistrates court but no further hearing has been held there were in each magistrates court in the south-west region, broken down by constabulary in each of the last five years; and what percentage this represented of all cases in each area in each year. [202242]

Maria Eagle: The following tables show the annual number of completed charged criminal cases (adult and youth), and the estimated proportion disposed of at first hearing, for court groupings in the south-west region of HM Court Service for the years 2002 to 2006. Figures are not yet available for 2007.

Figures are provided based on the location of the magistrates court, as data broken down by police force are not available. However, magistrates courts typically hear cases drawn from their local area.

Figures for the number of cases disposed of at the first hearing are estimates taken from a quarterly survey of magistrates courts. These estimates are therefore subject to sample survey variability, with margins of error as shown in the table.

Number of charged cases and estimated proportion disposed of in one hearing in the south-west region magistrates courts, 2002-06

	2002			2003			2004		
Area[1]	*Number of cases*[2]	*In one hearing*[3] (%)	*Margin of error*[4] (+/- %)	*Number of cases*[2]	*In one hearing*[3](%)	*Margin of error*[4] (+/- %)	*Number of cases*[2]	*In one hearing*[3] (%)	*Margin of error*[4] (+/- %)
Avon and Somerset									
Bath and Wansdyke	2,409	30	8	2,561	34	8	2,011	39	8
Bristol	6,649	25	5	7,456	28	4	6,667	33	5
North Avon	2,327	24	10	2,559	24	9	2,364	37	9
South Somerset	1,327	35	12	1,283	37	13	1,208	34	10
Taunton Deane	1,077	28	8	2,764	39	8	2,321	34	7
Woodspring	1,890	35	13	1,985	33	9	1,859	40	10
Avon and Somerset—total	15,679	28	3	18,608	31	3	16,430	35	3
Devon and Cornwall									
Central Devon	4,023	60	7	3,913	53	8	3,316	49	7
East Cornwall	2,124	41	9	2,370	45	8	1,962	45	9
North Devon	1,725	46	10	1,591	54	10	1,434	39	11
Plymouth District	3,845	31	7	3,690	35	7	3,601	36	7
South Devon	3,643	35	8	3,707	48	7	3,378	49	8
West Cornwall	2,117	34	9	2,159	39	8	2,079	40	9
Total	17,477	41	3	17,430	45	3	15,770	43	3
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire									
Gloucestershire	6,190	35	5	5,925	32	6	5,900	41	6
North West Wiltshire	2,310	39	11	2,520	48	9	2,492	39	8
Poole	6,959	43	5	6,553	41	5	6,438	44	4
Salisbury	1,557	39	11	1,631	47	10	1,552	50	9
Swindon	2,816	39	8	2,719	41	7	2,620	36	8
Total	19,832	38	3	19,348	40	3	19,002	42	3
Hampshire and Isle of Wight									
Isle of Wight	1,773	45	11	2,038	42	9	1,796	35	10
North East Hampshire	6,676	42	7	7,101	51	5	6,915	34	5
South East Hampshire	9,583	39	5	9,068	36	4	9,592	35	4

Number of charged cases and estimated proportion disposed of in one hearing in the south-west region magistrates courts, 2002-06

	2002			2003			2004		
Area[1]	*Number of cases*[2]	*In one hearing*[3] (%)	*Margin of error*[4] (+/- %)	*Number of cases*[2]	*In one hearing*[3](%)	*Margin of error*[4] (+/- %)	*Number of cases*[2]	*In one hearing*[3] (%)	*Margin of error*[4] (+/- %)
Southampton	7,948	37	5	7,843	40	5	7,601	35	4
Total	25,980	39	3	26,050	41	2	25,904	35	2
South West Region total	78,968	37	1	81,436	39	1	77,106	39	1

	2005			2006		
Area[1]	*Number of cases*[2]	*In one hearing*[3] (%)	*Margin of error*[4] (+/- %)	*Number of cases*[2]	*In one hearing*[3](%)	*Margin of error*[4] (+/- %)
Avon and Somerset						
Bath and Wansdyke	2,138	40	8	1,915	34	7
Bristol	6,609	31	5	6,219	29	4
North Avon	2,612	39	8	2,342	26	9
South Somerset	1,203	26	11	1,117	46	10
Taunton Deane	2,518	34	7	2,192	31	7
Woodspring	1,984	41	10	1,766	31	9
Total	17,064	35	3	15,551	32	3
Devon and Cornwall						
Central Devon	3,303	52	7	2,670	49	8
East Cornwall	1,876	56	8	1,992	50	9
North Devon	1,385	38	10	1,346	43	10
Plymouth District	3,513	30	6	3,191	35	7
South Devon	3,120	29	8	2,720	43	8
West Cornwall	1,923	41	8	1,847	48	9
Total	15,120	41	3	13,766	44	3
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire						
Gloucestershire	6,338	34	5	6,427	42	5
North West Wiltshire	2,345	40	11	2,274	42	8
Poole	7,163	43	4	7,130	35	4
Salisbury	1,619	52	9	1,466	39	12
Swindon	2,539	42	8	2,217	42	8
Total	20,004	41	3	19,514	39	3
Hampshire and Isle of Wight						
Isle of Wight	2,100	48	12	1,823	43	9
North East Hampshire	6,275	48	6	5,597	47	6
South East Hampshire	8,281	31	4	7,018	40	5
Southampton	7,547	38	4	7,406	39	4
Total	24,203	38	3	21,844	41	3
South West Region total	76,391	39	1	70,675	39	1

[1] Local data are presented at clerkship level, clerkships being clusters of one or more courts grouped for administrative purposes. Area and region groupings are those used by Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS).

[2] Number of cases arising from apprehensions (equivalent to charged cases) taken from MOJ Court Proceedings Database (CPD).

[3] Estimated proportion based on one sample week of charged cases (summons are excluded from these figures) in March, June, September and December. The Time Intervals Survey (TIS) collects the number of hearings for completed criminal cases in magistrates1 courts. More information on TIS is available on the Ministry of Justice website.

[4] The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Number of hearings in magistrates' court cases are measured using data from a sample of the total number of defendants. The sample provides one estimate of the average number of hearings and different samples would produce different averages. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error.

Source:

Time Intervals Survey and Court Proceedings Database, MOJ

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission made to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in each of the last five years; and on what date each payment was made. [202258]

Mr. Hanson: The payments made by the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission to "Weber Shandwick Worldwide—Belfast" in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

Date paid	£
31 May 2007	4,935.00

Date paid	£
31 July 2007	4,935.00
31 July 2007	4,935.00
14 August 2007	4,935.00
18 September 2007	4,935.00
16 October 2007	4,935.00
12 November 2007	533.80
14 January 2008	9,870.00
31 January 2008	4,935.00
Total	44,948.80

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to issue his response to the consultation "Voting rights of convicted prisoners detained within the United Kingdom—The UK Government's response to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of Hirst v. The United Kingdom"; and if he will make a statement. [202145]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are currently considering how to take forward the implementation of the Hirst judgment in light of the first stage consultation on this issue and will publish the responses in due course. We also remain committed to carrying out a second, more detailed public consultation on how voting rights might be granted to serving prisoners, and how far those rights should be extended. This is a sensitive and complex issue and we need to look very carefully at what the right approach should be.

Prisoners: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women born in Wales were serving custodial sentences at the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* prison and *(b)* length of sentence. [201333]

Maria Eagle: Information on prisoner's country of birth is not routinely collected and could be provided only by manual survey of prisoners in England and Wales.

However as at 31 March 2008 there were 160 sentenced female prisoners with a home address in Wales (or committal court in Wales where no home address was listed).

This figure is drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken to reduce substance misuse inside prisons in the last 12 months. [202031]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has in place a comprehensive strategy to address the misuse of drugs by offenders serving custodial sentences. The strategy for prisons has three elements:

- reducing supply, through security measures and drug testing programmes;
- reducing demand, through targeted interventions for low, moderate and severe drug-misusers; and
- establishing effective through-care links to ensure continuity of treatment post-release in order to safeguard the gains made in custody.

Prisons have in place a robust framework of supply reduction measures and these can be adapted flexibly to meet local need.

As part of the drive against drugs announced at the end of January 2008, the Director General of the Prison Service has commissioned David Blakey, a former member of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the measures to disrupt the supply of illicit drugs into prisons.

On 13 March 2008 we announced that universal testing for the opiate substitute buprenorphine was to commence in all prisons of England and Wales from 1 April 2008. Prisoners have also been warned of the dangers of the illicit use of buprenorphine.

NOMS' comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised Models of Care, addresses the different needs of substance-misusers in prison. Interventions comprise:

- Clinical services, detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing;
- CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare service)—lower-level interventions that, following assessment, deliver treatment and support. CARATs take the lead Drug Intervention programme (DIP) role in prisons, engaging with prison resettlement teams and criminal justice integrated teams (CJITs) in the community;
- Drug Rehabilitation programmes.

In 2007-08 £79.8 million was made available for drug treatment in prisons. £18.7 million of this was used to fund the implementation of the integrated drug treatment system (IDTS). This allowed the development of enhanced clinical services in 53 prisons, with 29 of these also developing enhanced psychosocial services.

Reoffenders

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government has taken in co-operation with the Prison Service to reduce reoffending. [202032]

Mr. Hanson: Reducing re-offending is a key priority for the Government. We are delivering this through our cross-Government strategy to reduce re-offending, supported by the significant increase in investment since 1997.

At the heart of our work to reduce re-offending, is the end to end case management of offenders which enables offenders to access the right services and interventions at the right time in their sentence and effectively re-integrate them back into the community. The Prison Service is engaging with a wide range of partners to tackle the accommodation, skills and employment, finance management and health disadvantages suffered by offenders. Interventions to tackle drug and alcohol problems are also being delivered in custody and the community.

Latest performance figures show that adult re-offending has been reduced by 6.9 per cent. comparing 2004 to 1997 against a predicted rate. This exceeds the 5 per cent. target set in the 2000 Spending Review.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of hours per day spent in purposeful activity was by each *(a)* adult (i) male and (ii) adult female prisoner and (A) male and (B) female prisoner in a young offender institution in each week of March and April 2008. [202240]

Maria Eagle: Data are not yet available for April 2008, the following table shows the average number of hours of purposeful activity per day in prisons which predominately hold (a) adult male prisoners, (b) adult female prisoners and (c) male prisoners in young offender and juvenile institutions, for each week in February and March 2008. No young offender institutes are predominantly categorised as female. Therefore, the average number of hours for a female prisoner in a young offender institution cannot be provided.

Week commencing	*Adult female*	*Adult male*	*YO and juvenile male*
3 February 2008	4.1	3.7	3.9
10 February 2008	4.2	3.7	3.8
17 February 2008	4.1	3.7	3.8
24 February 2008	4.2	3.7	3.8
2 March 2008	4.2	3.7	3.8
9 March 2008	4.0	3.7	3.7
16 March 2008	3.8	3.5	3.6
23 March 2008	3.8	3.4	3.3
30 March 2008	4.2	3.6	3.7

Young Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls aged (i) 10, (ii) 11, (iii) 12, (iv) 13, (v) 14 and (vi) 15 years old were received into each local authority (A) secure home and (B) secure training centre (1) on remand and (2) under sentence in each year since 2000. [201673]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls aged (i) 15, (ii) 16 and (iii) 17 years were (A) received into prison service custody on remand and (B) under sentence in each year since 2000. [201812]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is in the table as follows.

	Total		*Males*		*Females*	
	Remand	*Sentence*	*Remand*	*Sentence*	*Remand*	*Sentence*
2000						
Age 15	526	994	526	954	0	40
Age 16	1,042	1,799	1,042	1,696	0	103
Age 17	4,082	3,044	3,850	2,883	232	161
2001						
Age 15	477	1,085	477	1,038	0	47
Age 16	994	1,920	994	1,826	0	94
Age 17	3,507	2,900	3,261	2,736	246	164
2002						
Age 15	592	1,007	592	967	0	40
Age 16	1,180	1,888	1,180	1,767	0	121
Age 17	3,655	2,844	3,415	2,659	240	185
2003						
Age 15	597	784	597	784	0	0
Age 16	1,188	1,538	1,188	1,509	0	29
Age 17	3,353	2,596	3,108	2,436	245	160
2004						
Age 15	653	877	653	877	0	0
Age 16	1,296	1,598	1,294	1,588	0	10
Age 17	3,209	2,697	3,017	2,521	194	176
2005						
Age 15	639	875	639	875	0	0
Age 16	1,311	1,706	1,311	1,698	0	0
Age 17	3,214	2,594	3,034	2,398	18	196
2006						
Age 15	674	953	674	953	0	0
Age 16	1,308	1,652	1,308	1,646	0	6
Age 17	3,287	2,686	3,109	2,528	18	158

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were moved from secure children's homes to young offender institutions in each of the last five years. [201860]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Information about such transfers is not collected centrally. The Youth Justice Board informs us that it providing the information requested would involve a manual search of records at establishments: this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders: Protection

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many child protection referrals to local children's services involving children in custody were made from each *(a)* prison, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* local authority secure children's home in the last two years. [201712]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the total number of referrals involving children in custody made to local children's services by each under-18 custodial establishment between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2008:

	Number
Young offender institutions	
Brinsford	52
Castington	1
Cookham Wood	52
Downview	6
Eastwood Park	0
Feltham	11
Foston Hall	1
Hindley	0
Huntercombe	22
Lancaster Farms	14
New Hall	7
Stoke Heath	7
Thorn Cross	39
Warren Hill	42
Werrington	51
Wetherby	76
Secure training centres	
Hassockfield	69
Medway	60
Oakhill	125
Rainsbrook	48
Secure children's homes	
Aldine House	4
Atkinson Unit	0
Aycliffe Young People's Centre	22
Barton Moss Secure Unit	1
Clayfields House	2
East Moor Secure Unit	4
Hillside	20
Kyloe House	2
Lincolnshire Unit	9
Orchard Lodge	21
Red Bank Community Home	12
Sutton Place Safe Centre	3
Swanwick Lodge	1
Vinney Green	8

Note:
Figures provided by the YJB and HMPS have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HIV/AIDS

6. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to improve education on HIV/AIDS in developing countries. [202415]

Mr. Thomas: Prevention is absolutely crucial if we are to stop and reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS. Education is central to the Department for International Development's (DFID's) approach, particularly girls' education and improved sexual and reproductive health education for women. We support innovative AIDS education programmes, including a recent £14 million grant to the Soul City programme, a televised soap opera watched by more than 34 million South Africans, now extending to eight countries in southern Africa.

Primary Education

7. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of children in developing countries attending primary school. [202416]

Gillian Merron: Since 1999 there are 41 million more children in schools. The UK Government have committed £8.5 billion for education in developing countries over the 10 years to 2015. This will provide support to national government education plans to achieve the millennium development goal of universal primary education by 2015.

Palestinian Territories

8. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UK humanitarian aid to the Palestinian Territories. [202417]

Mr. Malik: The humanitarian situation is grave. The UK channels its humanitarian assistance through international agencies including UNRWA and the EC. Our support is still reaching those who need it. Assistance from the EC's Temporary International Mechanism has paid the allowances of 77,000 Palestinian Authority workers critical to the delivery of basic services. Movement and access restrictions triggered by ongoing violence undermine the effectiveness of humanitarian operations. Recent fuel strikes further threaten the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts.

Food Prices

9. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of increases in world food prices on developing countries. [202419]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) today.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of high food prices on the poorest countries; and what response his Department is making. [202420]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) today (UIN 202410).

Nepal

11. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department is providing to Nepal. [202421]

Mr. Malik: In the current financial year (2008-09) the Department for International Development (DFID) plan to provide £42 million of bilateral development assistance to Nepal. We aim to scale this up to £56 million over the comprehensive spending review period.

Zimbabwe

12. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he next expects to meet his EU counterparts to discuss aid to Zimbabwe. [202422]

Gillian Merron: No formal discussions on EU aid to Zimbabwe are planned for the immediate future. The UK Government are in constant dialogue with our EU counterparts and other international partners about the current crisis. Under the right conditions, we are ready to play a leading role in supporting Zimbabwe's recovery. In the meantime, we continue to work with the United Nations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in saving the lives and livelihoods of Zimbabwe's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Tibet

13. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to provide humanitarian assistance to the Tibetan population in occupied Tibet. [202423]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not plan to provide humanitarian assistance in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Together with our colleagues at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, we are keeping the situation under review, but there does not at this time, appear to be any reason for us to provide such assistance. We continue to provide £500,000 per year to support Save the Children's work in Tibet. This is continuing to run smoothly despite the recent unrest. The work is not considered politically sensitive either by the Chinese authorities or by the Tibetan population, and is welcomed by both.

China: Overseas Aid

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether account is taken of the human rights implications of the Chinese one-child policy in his Department's decisions on aid to China; and if he will make a statement. [201958]

Mr. Malik: Human rights are one of several factors that are taken into account when deciding aid allocations. China has made good progress in recent years in improving reproductive health rights, especially through its implementation of the 2002 Law of Population and Family Planning. This law establishes equal rights for women and men in accordance with the principles of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Sex-selective abortions are strictly prohibited. Under the Regulations for the Management of Family Planning Technical Services of 2001, the use of physical coercion to compel persons to submit to abortion or sterilization is prohibited.

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not support China's one child policy. The UK Government's policy on population and sexual and reproductive health in the developing world is about providing choice, not coercion. We do not provide direct funding to population activities in China. We do however provide central funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF), as well as other organisations in the sexual and reproductive health field that seek to promote informed choice and better services. Neither UNFPA nor IPPF support the one-child policy, but are working hard to uphold reproductive health rights and promote change in China.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197605]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not currently offer a cycle to work scheme to its employees. Our intention is to introduce a scheme through the course of 2008 in line with changes planned as part of our Human Resources Transformation Programme.

At present DFID staff can apply for an interest free loan to cover the cost of purchasing a bicycle and any necessary security and safety equipment up to the value to £500. The loan is repayable over a maximum period of 12 months.

The one DFID Executive non-departmental public body does not employ any staff.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200710]

Gillian Merron: It is not appropriate to disclose values for staff, other than those whose details are reported in the remuneration report in the Department's resource accounts. A copy of the resource accounts for the year ending 2006-07 can be found in the House of Commons Library.

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have any Executive agencies.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195818]

Gillian Merron: Based on the contracted hours (minus leave entitlements) of home civil service staff working in our HQ offices (in London and East Kilbride) and overseas, the total hours worked from 1 January-31 December 2007, was 2,652,062.60.

This equates to an average of 1,550.90 hours per employee, based on our headcount staff numbers of 1,710.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201762]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development is committed to responding to written parliamentary questions promptly. Since the start of the 2007-08 Session to date:

(a) 78 per cent. of 677 ordinary written questions have been answered within five sitting days

(b) 84 per cent. of the 137 named day questions have been answered on the day specified.

Information to the level of detail requested could be provided only disproportionate cost.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199045]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office is currently drawing up a new Diversity Strategy from 2008 to 2011 that will build on the achievements and lessons learnt from the existing Government-wide "10 Point Plan for a Diverse Civil Service". The Department for International Development (DFID) will draw on this strategy for its own targets for employing people with disabilities in grades below the senior civil service (SCS) from 2008 to 2011.

Guatemala: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on international development issues in relation to her recent visit to Guatemala. [202710]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Discussions about the visit by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to Guatemala between 16 and 19 of April have taken place between officials in the Department for International Development (DFID) and the FCO. The visit enabled my hon. Friend to see how projects funded by the Global Conflict Prevention Pool are contributing to conflict prevention along the Belize-Guatemala border. Specifically, she was able to visit the office of the Organisation of American States, which is monitoring the disputed border area, and contributing to the resolution of local problems in the area.

Overseas Aid: Politics and Government

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on projects promoting democracy in developing countries in each of the last five years. [197259]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides funding to promote democracy through civil society, the justice sector, elections, Parliaments, as well as related activities to improve the accountability of Government officials to citizens more generally. DFID does not measure expenditure on democracy projects specifically.

Most, but not all, of the expenditure on democracy comes under the category of 'governance'. Last year we published a report detailing DFID's work on governance titled "Governance, Development and Democratic Politics".

As follows is a table showing expenditure on governance for the last five years.

DFID bilateral expenditure, 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Overall governance spending	184.3	250.8	256.6	341.9	322.6
Of which:					
Elections	4.3	13.1	13.6	16.7	13.8
Of which:					
Public Reform and Good Governance	27.9	81.9	80.4	101.8	99.1
Strengthening Civil Society	86.3	96.0	105.1	123.1	143.6

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES'

Construction

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many construction projects his Department undertook in each of the last three years for which the capital cost was greater than £1.5 million; and what the combined value of these projects was. [202541]

Jim Knight: The Department does not undertake construction projects directly itself. Rather it allocates capital funding to a variety of bodies, usually local authorities, who procure and manage the projects. The capital allocations by programme for this Department for the last three years are included in the Departmental Annual Report (DAR) Table 8.2 and Annex C refers.

Academy projects started/undertaken in each of the last three years:

	Number
2005-06	10
2006-07	23
2007-08	3

The estimated capital cost of each of these projects exceeds £1.5 million.

The combined value of these projects (i.e. the total estimated capital costs including sponsorship) is £809.5 million.

The number of 16-19 capital projects approved over the past two years with a project cost of more than £1.5 million:

	Number of projects	£ million Total cost
2006-07	22	100.3
2007-08	35	169.4

Two separate sources of funding (from Schools and Further Education) were brought together to create the 16-19 capital fund from 2006-07.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many construction projects his Department undertook in each of the last three years for which the capital cost was less than £1.5 million; and what the combined value of these projects was. [202542]

Jim Knight: The Department does not undertake construction projects directly itself. Rather it allocates capital funding to a variety of bodies, usually local authorities, who procure and manage the projects. The capital allocations by programme for this Department for the last three years are included in the Departmental Annual Report (DAR) Table 8.2 and Annex C refers.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197628]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not offer a cycle to work scheme to its employees. However, my Department does offer interest-free, advance of salary loan to purchase a bicycle for those employees who want them. The Department does encourage staff to use sustainable forms of travel wherever possible including cycling to work as well as using public transport.

Non-departmental public bodies are responsible for their own policies.

Departmental Consultation Papers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* white papers, *(b)* bills, *(c)* green papers and *(d)* other consultation papers have been issued by his Department and its predecessors since 1997. [200997]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessors (Department for Education and Employment, and Department for Education and Skills) have issued the following since 1997:

(a) 64 Green and White Papers (our records do not distinguish between the two categories of paper);

(b) 16 Bills;

(c) See *(a)* above;

(d) 364 consultation papers and a further nine calls for evidence.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 105W, on departmental data protection, if he will include information assurance data on data loss incidents in previous years in his Department's next annual report. [199181]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179, and the written ministerial statement made my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data.

The interim report of 17 December 2007 committed to put in place a programme to examine and improve data handling procedures. An update on this commitment will be included in the final report, expected in spring 2008, and this report will detail the information to be included by Departments on data loss in their annual reports.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1532W, on departmental ICT, how many of the missing or stolen *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by his Department; and at what cost. [202505]

Kevin Brennan: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). To respond fully would involve an information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

DCSF does not keep central records of whether staff were immediately issued with a replacement mobile telephone, personal digital assistant or laptop computer following theft or loss.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200730]

Kevin Brennan: The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) of the pensions of the 10 highest paid departmental employees at 31 March 2008 was £4,492,806.10. This includes the CETV of some of the members of the senior management team named in the

Department's Remuneration Report, which is published annually and which is in the public domain.

The Department has no executive agencies.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time posts were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in his Department in each year since its establishment. [200658]

Kevin Brennan: Since the formation of my Department as part of the 28 June 2007 Machinery of Government changes, 131 posts have been filled by staff on temporary promotion for a period in excess of six months. Additionally there were 17 temporary staff employed for a period in excess of six months. These are the latest figures available and apply up to 31 March 2008. At that date my Department had 2,793 staff (2,643.4 full-time equivalents).

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 912W, on departmental translation services, how much was spent on translation services into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 to date. [197553]

Kevin Brennan: The details of expenditure on translation services incurred by the Department provided in the answer of 17 March 2008 was extracted from the Departments Integrated Financial Information System and is recorded under a general heading of Translation Fees. To extract the specific financial data requested would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201753]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's IT systems are currently unable to provide the full breakdown requested. Since the beginning of the 2007-08 Session and up to 31 March 2008 the Department has received a total of 2,674 PQs, 416 named day and 2,258 ordinary written PQs. The manual check of all named day PQs carried out to monitor the timeliness of replies for the months of November 2007 to March 2008 are shown in the following table.

	Total named day PQs received	*Total named day PQs answered on time (percentage)*
November 2007	105	30
December 2007	58	38
January 2008	104	28
February 2008	89	42
March 2008	60	75

Education: Young Offenders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to ensure that all 16 and 17 year olds in *(a)* prison and *(b)* on community service are in accredited education and training; and if he will make a statement. [202334]

Beverley Hughes: The availability of good quality and consistent education and training for young offenders in prison and in the community is critical to improving life outcomes and reducing re-offending rates. We outlined our plans to improve education and training for young offenders within the Children's Plan, published December last year. We are currently consulting on proposals for new funding and planning arrangements for pre and post-19 learning which includes plans for local authorities to lead on education and training for young people in juvenile custody. We will also include wider proposals to improve education and training for young offenders within the strategy on Youth Crime which we will be publishing later this year. This will include plans linking offender education more strongly with the 14 to 19 curriculum, quality improvement and work force development in order to ensure that young offenders have access to provision and qualifications which are consistent with mainstream education and training and which meets their personal needs.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children at Key Stage 4 secured at least five A* to C GCSEs, including mathematics, English, a science and a modern language in each year since 1996; and if he will make a statement. [201202]

Jim Knight: The information required is given as follows.

	Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A-C including English, mathematics, science and a MFL*
1995/96	27.2
1996/97	27.3
1997/98	28.9
1998/99	27.7
1999/2000	28.5
2000/01	29.5
2001/02	29.4
2002/03	28.8
2003/04	28.2
2004/05	28.4
2005/06	25.9
2006/07	24.1

Note:
Figures up to and including 2003/04 are based on 15-year-old pupils (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August). Figures from 2004/05 onwards are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Gifted Children

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities are not taking part in the gifted and talented programme. [203146]

Jim Knight: All local authorities in England are participating in the gifted and talented education programme.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200218]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not provide health and social care services out of public funds.

Higher Civil Servants

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of his Department's and its predecessors' senior civil service staff worked part-time in each year since 1997. [200556]

Kevin Brennan: In December 2007 my Department had a total of 106 staff in the senior civil service, of which six (5.7 per cent.) are recorded as working part-time.

Although not directly comparable, due to the 28 June 2007 Machinery of Government changes, the corresponding figure in the predecessor Department, the Department for Education and Skills, was 10 (7.63 per cent.) staff working part-time out of a total of 131 in the senior civil service, at December 2006. Figures for earlier years for the Department for Education and Skills can be found in the Civil Service Statistics Archive:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp

Pre-School Education: Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of childcare staff in nurseries had an Early Years Foundation Degree in *(a)* Basingstoke constituency, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [200564]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff qualifications that are relevant to working with children and young people. The qualifications are grouped together in the levels that they have been accredited with by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. It is not possible to look at specific qualifications held.

The Early Years Foundation Degree is a level 5 qualification. The percentage of paid staff in England holding at least a level 5 qualification is as follows:

Table 1: Percentage of paid staff holding at least a Level 5 qualification: 2006

	Percentage
Full day care	4
Full day care in children's centres	13
Sessional	5
After school clubs	6
Holiday clubs	9
Childminders	4
Nursery schools	33
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	40
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	48

Within those figures, those staff with any level 5 qualification relevant to working with children and young people is shown in Table 2:

Table 2: Percentage of paid staff holding a Level 5 qualification: 2006

	Percentage
Full day care	1
Full day care in children's centres	3
Sessional	1
After school clubs	1
Holiday clubs	1
Childminders	0
Nursery schools	3
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	2
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	3

Comparable data are not available for previous years due to changes in the way that the qualification levels were defined.

Data are not available at a local authority level.

Public Information Booklets

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1534W, on public information booklets, who is responsible for *(a)* authorising and *(b)* auditing expenditure on the production of information for the public; and what information is held centrally on such costs. [202679]

Kevin Brennan: Authorisation for expenditure on the production of information for the public is delegated by the Head of Department to individual policy teams, rather than to a central board dealing with a particular communications channel. This expenditure would be included within the annual audit of DCSF departmental resource accounts by the National Audit Office.

Although we do not centrally co-ordinate records for the production of public information booklets, we do maintain central records relating to the Department's overall publications distribution contract.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools excluded more than *(a)* 10 per cent. and *(b)* 30 per cent. of their pupils in the latest year for which figures are available. [201134]

Kevin Brennan: The number of schools excluding more than 10 and more than 30 per cent. of their pupils is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in secondary schools were given a *(a)* fixed period and *(b)* permanent exclusion in the last 12 months, broken down by local authority index of multiple deprivation decile. [202108]

Kevin Brennan: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

Pupil Referral Units: Sports

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupil referral units offer two hours of physical exercise every week. [201855]

Kevin Brennan: The 2006/07 PE and School Sport Survey found that 91 per cent. of Pupil Referral Units provided at least two hours high quality PE and school sport a week for at least one of its pupils. Overall, 84 per cent. of all pupils in PRUs participated in at least two hours high quality PE and sport a week.

School Meals: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what he expects the minimum spend on ingredients for school meals to be per pupil per day; and if he will make a statement; [202636]

(2) what the minimum spend on ingredients for school meals per pupil per day was in each year since the minimum spend was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [202637]

Kevin Brennan: There is no minimum spend on ingredients requirement for school meals. Food prices vary by region leading to different purchasing power. It is, therefore, for local authorities or, where the budget for school meals is delegated to them, school governing bodies to decide what monies they assign to school lunches. However, the School Food Trust's 2007 annual survey reported an average spend on ingredients of 57p per meal in primary schools.

The Government are taking forward a number of steps to improve school food and help to keep down the price of school meals. We are investing over £650 million between 2005 to 2011 to help raise nutritional standards and keep school lunch prices down. This includes funding to help build kitchens in areas with no kitchen facilities; to better support the development of training centres for the school food workforce; and to improve overall take-up.

Schools: Drinking Water

Sandra Gidley: (1) To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of schools which freely provided fresh drinking water for pupils at the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [201217]

(2) if he will provide grants for schools in England so that modern water coolers can be made available for pupils. [202735]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made an estimate of the number of schools which freely provide fresh drinking water for pupils and has no plans to provide grants to schools in England so that modern water coolers can be made available to pupils.

The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 require schools to have a wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes including a supply of drinking water. The responsibility for ensuring compliance with the School Premises regulations rests with local authorities.

The Education (Nutritional Standards and Requirements for School Food) (England) Regulations 2007 require schools to ensure that drinking water is provided free of charge at all times to registered pupils on school premises.

Schools wishing to attain Healthy Schools status must offer easy access to free, clean and palatable drinking water.

Schools: Sustainable Development

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken towards establishing a carbon test for new schools as a supplement to the BRE Environmental Assessment Method rating. [202539]

Jim Knight: The Children's Plan sets out our ambition for newly built schools to be zero carbon by 2016 and contains our current requirement for all newly built schools to reduce carbon emissions by at least 60 per cent. We are in the process of establishing a task force to determine; how to achieve zero carbon schools; whether the timescale is realistic; and how to reduce carbon emissions in the intervening period.

With regard to the current requirement to reduce emissions from new school buildings by 60 per cent. the Department has developed a simple piece of software—the 'carbon calculator'—which estimates the carbon savings and capital costs for a range of low carbon technologies. This allows users to test combinations of potential features for each school's design. The carbon calculator, and guidance on its use, can be downloaded from the Teachernet web-site[1]. Our guidance on how to use the calculator also contains information on a wide range of low carbon technologies. This refers users to other more detailed sources of information on each of these technologies, such as publications or specialist organisations that can provide further technical or financial support.

Our specific measures to address carbon emissions are additional to our requirement for all major school building projects; register for a BREEAM Schools assessment; and aim to achieve a minimum rating of 'very good'.

[1] www.teachernet.gov.uk/carbontargets

Secondary Education: Absenteeism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which secondary schools had an unauthorised absence rate of over *(a)* 10 and *(b)* 20 per cent. at the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201068]

Kevin Brennan: Information on unauthorised absence rate for individual schools are published as part of the Achievement and Attainment Tables which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools_07.shtml

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in developing a new master's-level teaching qualification; and if he will make a statement. [201064]

Jim Knight: Plans for the introduction of a Masters-level qualification in teaching and learning for teachers were set out in "Being the best for our children: Releasing talent for teaching and learning" on 7 March. We propose to begin by targeting the Masters mainly on teachers in the first five years of their careers, building on initial teacher training and induction. The Training and Development Agency for Schools has started to develop the programme, working with social partners: they will commence consultation with schools and higher education institutions on the content of the new qualification in the near future.

Trust Schools

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many trust schools, established or converted under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 there were on 1 September 2007, broken down by local authority. [200315]

Jim Knight: As of 1 September 2007, there were 23 trust schools established under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. These are broken down as follows by local authority:

Local authority	*Number of schools*
Bedfordshire	7
Devon	1
Dudley	2
Durham	1
Leeds	5
Northumberland	5
Plymouth	1
Southend on Sea	1
Total	23

Since last September, the number of trust schools has risen to 55, with a further 386 in the pipeline.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefi and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197606]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently sourcing a supplier to offer a cycle to work scheme to its employees. This scheme will support employees in taking greener journeys, by enabling the Department to loan a cycle to an employee, for up to 18 months and is expected to be available by September 2008.

The Department also offers an advance of salary to encourage green commuting. This allows employees to take an advance of their salary of up to £1,000 for the purchase of a cycle or an amount to cover the full cost of an annual public transport season ticket. The amount has to be repaid over the following 12 months and is free of interest. The same tax rules apply to benefits in kind provided to employees of Government Departments as to any other employee.

The Independent Living Fund, which is a non-departmental public body sponsored by DWP, offers staff who wish to purchase a bicycle for the purpose of travelling to work the opportunity to request an advance of salary, which will be recovered in equal payments over a 12 month period.

Departmental Equality

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made towards the equality targets set out in its annual report 2007, page 79. [200468]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is set out in the following tables.

Ethnic minority representation by grade (March 2008)

Grade	*March 2006*	*June 2006*	*March 2007*	*March 2008*	*Percentage Target March 2008*
Senior civil service	3.4	3.9	3.4	4.5	5.0
Grades 6 and 7/Bands G and F	2.87	2.9	3.7	3.9	4.0
SEO/Band E	3.7	3.6	4.0	3.7	4.0
HEO/Band D	5.0	5.1	5.6	6.1	5.5
EO/Band C	9.1	9.2	9.2	10.0	[1]—
AO/Band B	10.8	11.0	11.0	11.6	[1]—
AA/Band A	10.5	11.0	11.0	10.5	[1]—

[1] None.
Note:
Staff without declared ethnicity excluded

Disability: staff in post (March 2008)

Grade	*March 2006*	*June 2006*	*March 2007*	*March 2008*	*Percentage Target March 2008*
Senior civil service	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.8	6.0
Grades 6, 7 and SEO/Bands G, F and E	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0
HEO and EO/Bands D and C	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4	7.0
AO and AA/Bands B and A	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.9	6.0
All	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.5	[1]—

[1] None.
Note:
Staff without declared disability status excluded

Gender: Women in post (March 2008)

Grade	March 2006	June 2006	March 2007	March 2008	Percentage Target March 2008
Senior civil service pay band 2 and above	24.5	19.7	22.7	21.4	30
All senior civil service	33.5	32.7	35.3	35.3	39
Grade 6/Band G	39.6	41.4	41.3	42.6	45
Grade 7/Band F	44.6	44.0	43.6	44.7	45
SEO/Band E	51.6	52.0	52.8	53.4	[1]—
HEO/Band D	24.5	19.7	22.7	21.4	30
EO/Band C	33.5	32.7	35.3	35.3	39
AO/Band B	39.6	41.4	41.3	42.6	45
AA/Band A	44.6	44.0	43.6	44.7	45
All	51.6	52.0	52.8	53.4	[1]—

[1] None.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his Departmental website. [200033]

Mrs. McGuire: The most recent redesign of the DWP departmental website www.dwp.gov.uk took place in 2004-05 and cost £101,467.

The work was conducted by the Department's in-house e-communications team and an external supplier.

The external supplier supplier's costs are included in the response; however it has not been possible to quantify the internal costs.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number and proportion of his Department's workforce that will be employed in each region in 2009. [200466]

Mrs. McGuire: An estimate of the numbers and proportion of the Department for Work and Pensions workforce that will be employed in each region in 2009 is not available at present.

The Department's three year plan provides an indicative range of headcount reductions for the current Spending Review period and detailed business and regional plans for the period ending 31 March 2009 are currently being developed.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwD/2008/3yrplan/

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based. [200761]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is held within the principal civil service pensions scheme resource accounts which can be accessed on the civil service pensions website:

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91. [200762]

Mrs. McGuire: Information of liabilities in present value terms are held in the principal civil services pension scheme resource accounts (since 2000-01) which can be accessed on the civil service pensions website:

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

However, these are produced under differing sets of assumptions (e.g. on longevity), so are not comparable across years.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200763]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is contained in the Principal Civil Service Pensions scheme resource accounts (since 2000-01) and can be accessed on the civil service pensions website;

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

Employment: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the employment rate of *(a)* all people and *(b)* disabled people was in each of the last five years; and what progress has been made towards meeting his Department's public service agreement target 8. [200449]

Mrs. McGuire: The employment rate for disabled people and for all people in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

Period from April-June	Disabled employment Rate	GB employment Rate	Gap
2003	45.4	74.7	29.3
2004	46.7	74.7	27.9
2005	47.0	74.7	27.7
2006	47.5	74.4	27.0
2007	47.2	74.3	27.1

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Information relating to what progress has been made towards meeting this target (and others) is available in the departmental Autumn Performance Report 2007. This is available in the Library and can also be viewed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/autumnreport/full-report07.pdf

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to move people with disabilities from benefits to employment. [200601]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* This Department delivers a range of programmes aimed at helping disabled people remove the barriers that prevent them moving into paid work. During 2006-07, new deal for disabled people enabled over 45,000 people to move from an incapacity benefit to paid work. As of May 2007, 2.64 million people were receiving incapacity benefits, the lowest number for almost eight years. The caseload has dropped by nearly 140,000 since a peak in November 2003.

From October 2008, we are replacing incapacity benefits for new customers with the employment and support allowance. The new benefit, alongside a more robust medical assessment, will focus on what work a person can do, rather than what they cannot. We are also investing over £1 billion in our Pathways to Work programme in the next three years and from April 2008 everyone on incapacity benefits in Great Britain will have access to this programme.

The employment disadvantage experienced by disabled people has declined substantially over time. The difference between the employment rate for disabled people and the overall rate has narrowed from around 35 percentage points in spring 1998 to around 27 percentage points today. However, we know that disabled people are still disadvantaged in the labour market compared with other people. This is why we have significantly improved and extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to provide greater protection for disabled people from discrimination in the fields of employment and occupation.

We recently undertook a public consultation on proposals to improve the specialist disability employment services, which includes WORKSTEP, Work Preparation, Access to Work, the Job Introduction Scheme and the Disability Employment Advisory service. These programmes collectively help substantial numbers of disabled people take up or retain paid work rather than resort to benefits.

Health Hazards: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* Health and Safety Laboratory has made of the risks to refuse handlers of exposure to microbiological hazards from domestic rubbish; and what assessment he has made of the ways in which such risks may be affected by changes in the frequency of collection. [199567]

Mrs. McGuire: Neither the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) nor the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) have made an assessment of the microbiological risks that refuse handlers may be exposed to. Health and safety legislation places a duty on employers (including local authorities and waste management companies) to carry out their own assessment of risk from hazards and ensure that the risks to the health and safety of workers and others are controlled so far as is reasonably practicable.

The HSL (in a project jointly commissioned by HSE, DEFRA, Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government) have produced information on the hazards associated with refuse collection that can be used by duty holders to help them make their own assessment of risks.

Separate research commissioned by DEFRA found no evidence of additional health risks from fortnightly collections compared with weekly collections.

Incapacity Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants received the benefit for *(a)* back pain and *(b)* repetitive strain injuries in each year since 1980; and if he will make a statement. [200827]

Mrs. McGuire: The diagnosed condition does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. Entitlement is dependent upon the medical assessment of incapacity for work, the personal capability assessment, which assesses how a person's condition affects their mental or physical functions.

Information is not available prior to 1995. The available information is in the following table.

Number and proportion of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants with a primary diagnosis of back pain or repetitive strain injury

	Back pain		Repetitive strain injury	
As at May each year	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1995	321,100	11.3	100	0.0
1996	339,400	11.9	700	0.0
1997	347,300	12.2	700	0.0
1998	342,100	12.3	700	0.0
1999	336,900	12.3	800	0.0
2000	334,770	12.3	930	0.0
2001	339,950	12.2	1,000	0.0
2002	335,670	12.0	970	0.0
2003	330,030	11.7	950	0.0
2004	321,700	11.4	910	0.0
2005	309,900	11.1	870	0.0
2006	296,270	10.9	800	0.0
2007	282,970	10.5	760	0.0

Notes:
1. May 1995 to May 1999 (inclusive) numbers have been based on five per cent. sample figures uprated to 100 per cent WPLS totals.
2. May 2000 to May 2007 (inclusive) numbers are based on 100 per cent. WPLS figures.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. May 1995 to May 1999 (inclusive) numbers are based on a five per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation. These figures should be used as a guide to the current situation only.
5. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
6. Proportions are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample and 100 per cent Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Local Authorities: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* town and *(b)* parish councils are considered public bodies for the purposes of disability discrimination legislation. [201442]

Mrs. McGuire: Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 places a statutory duty on every public authority, when carrying out its functions, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. Town and parish councils

as part of our system of local government are public authorities for this purpose of this section.

Similarly, town and parish councils are also considered to be public authorities for the purposes of Sections 21B, 21D and 21E of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, which make it unlawful for public authorities, in the carrying out of their functions, to discriminate against disabled people for a reason related to their disability and place a duty on them to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people.

Maternity Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his estimate is of the number of women who will receive maternity allowance in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [200575]

(2) what his estimate is of the cost of paying maternity allowance in each year until 2011. [200576]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following tables.

Department for Work and Pensions forecast of maternity allowance new claim commencements

	Number
2008-09	64,000
2009-10	68,000
2010-11	71,000

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest thousand.
Source:
Budget 2008 Maternity Allowance Model

Department for Work and Pensions forecast of annual maternity allowance expenditure

	nominal terms, £ million
2008-09	365
2009-10	392
2010-11	416

Source:
Budget 2008 Maternity Allowance Model

Members: Correspondence

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 173276, on customer call centres, tabled on 6 December 2007 by the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne. [190895]

Mrs. McGuire: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2606-16W.

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 728-9W, on social security benefits: EU nationals, when he expects to be able to provide the information requested. [200261]

Mrs. McGuire: We are still involved in discussions with the European Commission to clarify the extent of the Government's responsibilities. Until the full implications of the judgment are known, we cannot estimate the additional costs, staffing requirements or the number of additional customers.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer Question 177307, tabled on 7 January for answer on 10 January, on the recording of individuals' political opinions. [189881]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 836W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

China: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of China on the implementation of the one-child policy in Tibet; and if he will make a statement. [201933]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed implementation of China's one child policy specifically in relation to Tibet. However, we do raise our concerns about abuses of the one child policy involving sterilisation and abortions. We did this most recently at the latest round of the UK-China human rights dialogue, which was held in Beijing on 28-31 January. We do not dispute China's right or need to implement family planning policies but we do believe they should be based on the principles of consent and not coercion. We will continue to encourage the Chinese to meet international human rights standards at every appropriate opportunity, both bilaterally and through the EU.

China: Politics and Government

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to encourage the development of democratic government in China. [201620]

Meg Munn: We continue to encourage China's leaders to make the transition to more representative and accountable governance. We welcome the greater democracy at village level in China and encourage China to look positively for ways to extend this sooner rather than later. The UK will continue to support and help shape moves toward greater institutional transparency, access to and respect for the rule of law, and increased participatory governance. We firmly believe democratic reform in China must go hand in hand with economic reform.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197001]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not currently offer a cycle to work scheme to its employees.

Nor does the FCO offer any other tax free benefits in kind to encourage green commuting. The same tax rules apply to benefits in kind provided to employees of Government Departments as to any other employee.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201739]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is working to reduce its energy consumption in line with the new Government targets on sustainable operations on the Government estate announced in June 2006. In the last 12 months, the FCO has:

started to replace its global Information Technology infrastructure with a new system that makes full use of advanced power saving settings and the latest methods for distribution of software updates. Computer base units will no longer need to be fully powered at all times and fewer, and more efficient, printers are being installed;

incorporated energy saving measures into the new Information and Communication Technology building at the Hanslope Park site, including solar panels; solar shading on facades to reduce heat gain; high efficiency ammonia refrigeration for the air-conditioning; heat recovery from servers;

continued to work towards improving the energy efficiency of light fittings in the FCO's Main building and Old Admiralty building;

begun to replace hand dryers with a more energy efficient model;

run campaigns to encourage staff to follow good practice in using energy efficiently and effectively;

extended environmental management practices to 20 overseas posts and is preparing to roll these out to a further 50 posts in the next month;

agreed and started to implement a framework specifically designed for the FCO, based on the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method into new office and residence builds overseas; and

opened new office buildings in Doha and Geneva that incorporate energy efficient measures.

The FCO's expenditure on energy since 2006, including value added tax where applicable, totalled:

	UK estate	*Overseas estate*	*Total*
2006-07	3,477,450	14,503,743	17,981,193
2007-08	3,104,657	14,726,851	17,831,508

Expenditure on the overseas estate for 2007-08 is provisional.

This represents an overall decrease of £149,685, a reduction in expenditure of 11 per cent. in the UK and just over 1 per cent. overall.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200006]

Meg Munn: This information is not held centrally. Foreign and Commonwealth Office departments and overseas posts hold their own budgets for public consultations, surveys or questionnaires. A more detailed answer would require a survey of all of our Embassies, High Commissions and subordinate posts, which could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201759]

Meg Munn: Most written parliamentary questions tabled by hon. Members to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs have been answered within five parliamentary sitting days, as shown by the data provided in the table:

	November 2007 to date (22 April 2008)
Number of written parliamentary questions for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office	2,005
Number answered within five parliamentary sitting days	1,519
Percentage answered within five parliamentary sitting days	76

Falun Gong

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of China on the arrests and treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in Guandong province. [201790]

Meg Munn: We remain concerned by reports of the mistreatment of Falun Gong adherents in various provinces of China, particularly those detained in Re-education Through Labour (RTL) camps. We raise our concerns over individual practitioners, and for the need to reform RTL, with the Chinese government at every appropriate opportunity. We did this most recently at the 16th round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in Beijing on 28-31 January.

Forced Marriage

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department's Forced Marriage Unit has prevented a British national being forced into marriage overseas in the last 12 months; what work his Department has undertaken with foreign governments

on the matter, in particular to provide support for hard to reach victims; and if he will make a statement. [201615]

Meg Munn: In 2007 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided overseas consular assistance in 168 cases of suspected forced marriage. The exact nature of this assistance varied on a case-by-case basis. We could not have done this without the support of central Governments and local authorities in the countries concerned, particularly in South Asia. We have worked in partnership at a national, regional and local level to raise awareness of the issue and to build practical co-operation to facilitate our assistance work.

Sudan: Overseas Investment

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department provides for firms and financial institutions seeking guidance on the risks of investing in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [197952]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

UK Trade and Investment provides UK companies with information and guidance on doing business and investing in Sudan via the website at www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk. The UKTI team in the British embassy in Khartoum is able to provide advice and specific guidance on request.

There is currently an EU arms embargo on Sudan. Otherwise normal export control regulations apply to UK companies. The USA has imposed sanctions on Sudan, including a trade embargo, and UK companies need to be aware of this if exported goods or parts of goods are of US origin. Exemptions to US sanctions were made last year for specified regions of Sudan. The UN has imposed sanctions on a small number of Sudanese individuals (travel bans and freezing of assets).

Vietnam: BBC External Services

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Head of BBC World Service on the effects of the recent reduction in the number of hours of Vietnamese language programmes. [201583]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There has been no reduction in broadcasting hours of the BBC Vietnamese Service recently. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary therefore has no plans to raise this issue with the Head of the BBC World Service.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Big Lottery Fund made to *(a)* Stategem and *(b)* Morgan Allen Moore in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202303]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Big Lottery Fund has provided the following information about the dates, amounts and purpose of payments made by them to Strategem and Morgan Allen Moore during the last five years:

Company	*Service*	*Date*	*£ (including VAT)*	*Information provided weekly*
Morgan Allen Moore	Morgan Allen Moore is contracted by the Big Lottery Fund's Wales office as a monitoring service, highlighting issues relating to the work of National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government that is relevant to BIG's programmes in Wales. The Morgan Allen Moore Monitoring service provides BIG in Wales with Relevant background to WAG and NAFW enabling BIG to be more responsive and informs us on strategic policy decisions.	3 June 2004	542.85	Morgan Allen Moore provide a weekly summary highlighting:
		18 June 2004	542.85	Questions and issues raised by Assembly Members in relation to the work of the Big Lottery Fund.
		11 August 2004	542.85	
		18 August 2004	542.85	New policies and strategies relevant to the Big lottery Fund's work;
		10 September 2004	542.85	Work of the National Assembly for Wales committees;
		15 October 2004	542.85	Up-coming Consultations and reviews that the Big Lottery Fund may wish to contribute to;
		16 November 2004	542.85	Funding announcements to ensure that Big Lottery Fund complements other funding streams.
		5 January 2005	542.85	Morgan Allen Moore also provides ad-hoc briefings for BIG for events and meetings.

Company	Service	Date	£ (including VAT)	Information provided weekly
		25 January 2005	542.85	
		22 February 2005	542.85	
		9 March 2005	542.85	
		15 April 2005	542.85	
		16 May 2005	542.85	
		30 June 2005	542.85	
		25 July 2005	542.85	
		17 August 2005	542.85	
		14 September 2005	542.85	
		17 October 2005	542.85	
		7 December 2005	542.85	
		21 December 2005	542.85	
		21 December 2005	542.85	
		21 December 2005	542.85	
		13 February 2006	542.85	
		17 March 2006	542.85	
		24 April 2006	542.85	
		17 May 2006	542.85	
		20 June 2006	542.85	
		24 July 2006	542.85	
		27 September 2006	1,085.70	
		5 October 2006	542.85	
		16 November2006	542.85	
		15 December 2006	542.85	
		13 February 2007	542.85	
		12 March 2007	542.85	
		3 April 2007	542.85	
		17 April 2007	542.85	
		15 May 2007	542.85	
		12 June 2007	542.85	
		17 July 2007	542.85	
		9 August 2007	542.85	
		8 November2007	542.85	
		3 January 2008	542.85	
		30 January 2008	1,628.55	
		7 February 2008	542.85	
		11 March 2008	542.85	
		9 April 2008	542.85	

Company	Service	Date	Net amount (£)	Information provided annually
Stratagem	Annual subscription to Stratagem's Public Affairs Toolkit	18 August 2004	352.50	12 monthly updates via email to Public Affairs Officer, NI
		9 August 2005	352.50	Ad hoc updates on key political developments in Assembly/NI
		17 October 2006	411.25	
		12 September 2007	411.25	

Culture: Local Authorities

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what requirements his Department makes of local authorities to produce local cultural strategies; and how many local authorities have submitted such strategies to his Department in each year since 2000. [200297]

Margaret Hodge: We encourage culture to form part of sustainable communities' strategies and regional economic strategies, however we place no statutory duty on local authorities to submit local cultural strategies.

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's non-departmental public bodies provide (i) tax-free benefits and (ii) other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [197630]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department will be launching the Cycle to Work Scheme on 1 May 2008 and The Royal Parks Agency introduced the scheme in June 2007. The Department also offers staff an interest free advance of salary to assist in the purchase of a bicycle if it is used for work. We do not centrally hold information on schemes run by our NDPBs.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent employees are employed in his Department's public engagement and recognition unit. [202332]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Public Engagement and Recognition Unit (PERU) was set up on 15 April 2008 as part of the transformation of DCMS following its capability review. Based on an earlier model, PERU brings together a number of functions which were previously spread across policy teams in the Department in order to provide a higher quality service. It is expected that, over time, the centralisation of these functions will enable the service to be delivered more efficiently, and at a lower cost, than before. PERU is responsible for much of the Department's direct communication with the public and Parliament, including correspondence and telephone inquiries, Freedom of Information requests and parliamentary questions. It is also responsible for co-ordinating briefings for Ministers, appointments to public bodies and recommendations for honours.

It currently employs 37.95 full-time equivalent employees.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based. [200731]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most recent information is contained in the scheme's resource accounts. Copies of the accounts are available from the House Library or can be viewed on-line on the Cabinet Office's website using the following link:

http://www.civilservice_pensions.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.civilservice_pensions.gov.uk/publications/csra_2006_2007.pdf

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91. [200732]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information on liabilities in present value terms have been detailed in the scheme's resource accounts since 2000-01, although these are produced under differing sets of assumptions (e.g. on longevity), so are not comparable across years. Copies of the scheme's accounts since 2000-01 are available from the House Library or can be viewed from the following page on the Cabinet Office's website at:

http://www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk/facts_andfigures.aspx

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200733]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most recent information is contained in the scheme's resource accounts. Copies of the accounts are available from the House Library or can be viewed on-line on the Cabinet Office's website using the following link:

http://www.civilservice_pensions.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.civilservice_pensions.gov.uk/publications/csra_2006_2007.pdf

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200735]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is set out in DCMS's resource accounts 2006-07 on pages 26-29. Copies of the accounts are available from the House Library or can be viewed online on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website using the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8493F432266C469085CODE4FDFDC4D50/0/dcmsresourceaccounts_200607.pdf

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budget of his Department's public engagement and recognition unit is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [202333]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Public Engagement and Recognition Unit (PERU) was set up on 15 April 2008 as part of the transformation of DCMS following its capability review. PERU is responsible for much of the Department's direct communication with the public and Parliament, including correspondence and telephone inquiries, Freedom of Information requests and parliamentary questions. It is also responsible for co-ordinating briefings for Ministers, appointments to public bodies and recommendations for honours. Based on an earlier model, PERU brings together a range of functions, which were previously spread across policy teams in the Department, in order to provide a higher quality service. It is expected that, over time, the centralisation of these functions will enable the service to be delivered more efficiently than before.

PTRU'S administration budget for 2008-09 is £1,400,000 and its programme budget is £160,000. The Unit's budget for 2009-10 has not yet been determined.

Digital Broadcasting

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to ensure full television transmission to all people following the digital TV switchover, with particular reference to transmission blind spots; when the process will be complete; and how much it will cost. [202201]

Andy Burnham: At switchover, it is expected that UK wide coverage levels for Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), will reach that of present analogue services, which is 98.5 per cent. of households. For virtually all other households, there will be other options available, including free-to-view satellite services. The switchover process will be completed by 2012. The costs of building out the transmission network for switchover are being met by broadcasters. These costs are confidential.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of constituencies in which residential areas will no longer be able to receive terrestrial television signals following digital switchover in 2012. [202216]

Andy Burnham: We expect that at switchover the coverage of the public service broadcaster (PSB) multiplexes, via Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), will match that of the existing analogue services, which is 98.5 per cent. of households.

We do not keep data on a constituency basis.

Mass Media: Apprentices

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the procedure is for people to apply for the media apprenticeships announced by the Secretary of State on 22 February in his publication, Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy. [198382]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* The ambition of establishing up to 5,000 apprenticeships in the creative industries is designed to help remove the barriers to entry and diversify the work force. The BBC at mediacityiuk, Tate Liverpool, and Universal Music Group are among the first to sign up to offer high quality training.

The normal procedure is for people to find apprenticeships directly with an employer, or via a training provider, both of whom would carry out usual recruitment activities.

Potential apprentices can find out more information from the Learning and Skills Council or through the apprenticeship website at:

http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk

where they can register to receive information on apprenticeships available in their area. The website also identifies other sources of information, such as Connexions and Jobcentre Plus.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to achieve the target of increasing private sector funding of sport in 2008-09. [202346]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has developed a commercial strategy to support its target to raise £50 million in private sector funding. This is part of its overall strategy for 2008-11, which is being finalised and is due to be launched shortly.

We are also working closely with UK Sport and others about raising the £100 million private sector funding for elite athletes.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the practices of credit companies in issuing statutory demands to debtors rather than applying for county court judgements; and what assessment he has made of the effect this practice has on levels of bankruptcies. [201397]

Mr. McFadden: A creditor can ask the court to make a bankruptcy order in respect of a debtor on the ground of inability to pay their debts which may be demonstrated on the basis of a failure to comply with a statutory demand, or alternatively that a county court judgment has been returned unsatisfied in whole or in part. Both routes are equally acceptable, subject to the proper procedure being followed, and may result in a bankruptcy order being made by the court.

The Insolvency Service does not keep statistics on the number of bankruptcies which arise from either route, either within the credit industry or more widely and the effect of any particular industry practices upon bankruptcy numbers is therefore unknown. However, the number of bankruptcies arising from creditor petitions has remained relatively flat over the past few years.

There are a range of measures in place to reduce the number of individuals who become over-indebted and to support those who have become so. These include the expansion of the National Debtline, which now helps 150,000 clients per year and the face to face debt advice programme.

Billing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Government will issue its response to the billing and metering consultation; and what the reasons are for the time taken to respond. [201887]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government will shortly issue their response to the consultation. Given the importance of this issue, the Government have been concerned that the response, and the material that accompanies it, including the draft Impact Assessment of smart metering, should be as thorough as possible.

Bird and Bird

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contracts were awarded by his Department to Bird and Bird solicitors in each year since 2005; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was. [201637]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that the following amounts have been paid to Bird and Bird solicitors in financial years:

	£
2005-06	79,243
2006-07	219,805
2007-08	106,637

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Certification Officer: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what pension scheme is offered to staff joining the Office of the Certification Officer; what the rate of employer contributions to the scheme is; and if he will place in the Library details of the terms and benefits of the scheme. [198497]

Mr. McFadden: The Office of the Certification Officer is covered by the civil service pension.

New entrants to the civil service are covered by the civil service pension arrangements. Staff can choose between 'nuvos', a defined benefit pension scheme and 'partnership', a stakeholder pension. If a person is being re-employed, and was previously a member of a civil service pension scheme, they may be able to rejoin their previous scheme, but this will depend on the length of time since they were last employed.

In respect of members of the defined benefit schemes, employer contribution rates are assessed for each of four ranges of pay levels. A separate rate is payable in respect of a group of prison officers who have certain reserved rights.

The rates for 2008-09 are as follows:

Band	*Full-time annual salary*	*Rate from 1 April 2008 (Percentage)*
Band 1	£19,500 and under	17.1
Band 2	£19,501 to £40,500	19.5
Band 3	£40,501 to £69,000	23.2
Band 4	£69,001 and above	25.5
Prison officers with reserved rights (pre-fresh start)		26.5

The scheme rules are laid before Parliament and copies are in the House Library.

For members of 'partnership', the employer pays a basic contribution of between 3 per cent. and 12.5 per cent. (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product and will match the member's contribution up to a limit of 3 per cent. Employers also contribute a further 0.8 per cent. of pensionable salary to cover the cost of risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

Details of the civil service pension arrangements can be found on the civil service pensions website at:

http://www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

Civil Nuclear Constabulary: Arrests

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many arrests the Civil Nuclear Constabulary have made since 22nd July 2004, broken down by offence; and of those which resulted in a criminal conviction, for which criminal offence each individual was convicted. [201476]

Malcolm Wicks: The CNC was established on 1 April 2005, taking over responsibilities from its predecessor, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Constabulary. Since 22 July 2004 the two forces have conducted 13 arrests where a criminal investigation has been undertaken. The following table provides the associated data:

Offence arrested	*Result*	*Offence convicted*
Manslaughter	Not prosecuted	n/a
Manslaughter	Not prosecuted	n/a
Manslaughter	Not prosecuted	n/a
Obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception	Convicted	Using false instrument for other than prescription for scheduled drug.
Forgery or copying false instrument	—	Forging document other than prescription for scheduled drug. Obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception.
Infringement of copyright	Cautioned	Possession of goods with false trademark for sale or hire. Possessing in source of business article which infringes copyright.
Theft by employee	Cautioned	Theft by employee
Theft by employee	Cautioned	Theft by employee
Theft by employee	Not prosecuted	n/a
Common Assault	Convicted	Battery
Fraud	Not prosecuted	n/a
Theft by employee	Cautioned	Theft by employee
Criminal damage	Convicted	Destroy or damage property
Possession of controlled drug	Cannabis warning	n/a

Civil Nuclear Constabulary: Firearms

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform at which locations under the protection of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary officers are authorised to carry firearms. [201477]

Malcolm Wicks: CNC officers are authorised to carry firearms at any licensed civil nuclear site under their protection, as well as when escorting nuclear material from one location to another.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary: Recruitment

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications to join the Civil Nuclear Constabulary have been rejected because the applicant did not meet

the criteria set out in personnel security policy in the latest period for which figures are available. [201475]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office for Civil Nuclear Security, who have responsibility for vetting CNC applicants, confirm that all applicants met the criteria set out on the personnel security policy. Therefore CNC have not rejected any applications for this reason.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications to join the Civil Nuclear Constabulary in a *(a)* policing and *(b)* administrative capacity have been (i) made and (ii) successful since 22nd July 2004. [201515]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The CNC was established on 1 April 2005, therefore the data collated are from this date.

There were 2,929 police applications made, of which 327 were successful, and 1,000 administrative applications, of which 72 were successful.

Community Interest Companies: Pay

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what scrutiny is undertaken of the rates of pay for senior executives of community interest companies to monitor whether such pay is appropriate for the tasks undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [201963]

Mr. Thomas: Every community interest company (CIC) is obliged by section 26 of the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/1788) to disclose certain details about its directors' remuneration as part of its annual community interest company report. The decision as to how much an individual director is paid is a matter for each CIC but the functioning of CICs is overseen by the CIC regulator to whom a copy of the community interest company report is sent.

Any person can report their concerns to the CIC regulator if they consider that the CIC's actions appear to be inconsistent with its aim to benefit the community. This includes concerns about remuneration. The regulator has supervisory powers under the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 to maintain confidence in community interest companies. This includes the power, where appropriate, to investigate the affairs of a community interest company.

Competition Commission: Euro RSCG Apex Communications

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments the Competition Commission has made to Euro RSCG Apex Communications in each of the last five years; on what dates and for what purpose in each case. [202272]

Mr. Thomas: The Competition Commission made no payments to Euro RSCG Apex Communications before October 2007. It has since made four payments totalling £11,867.50 for communications advice and support.

Debt Collection: Licensing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with the Office of Fair Trading about the issuing of consumer credit licences to debt collecting companies and ensuring that recipients of licences have a responsibility to check properly the history of those individuals passed onto them to prevent older people who have faced identity theft from being caused distress. [202445]

Mr. Thomas: We have recently given the Office of Fair Trading wider ranging powers to tackle debt collectors. Debt collectors are now subject to greater scrutiny at the licence application stage and greater monitoring throughout the life of the licence. Furthermore, as part of a recently completed investigation, the OFT has issued warnings to 13 companies telling them that they need to take steps to improve their debt collection practices. In particular, the companies involved have specifically been asked to review their policies and procedures for tracing debtors, including keeping client data up to date and maintaining its accuracy.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 75W, on departmental data protection, if he will include information assurance data on data loss incidents in previous years in his Department's next annual report. [199179]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179 and the written ministerial statement made my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and Agencies for the storage and use of data.

The interim report of 17 December 2007 committed to put in place a programme to examine and improve data handling procedures. An update on this commitment will be included in the final report, expected shortly, and this report will detail the information to be included by departments on data loss in their annual reports.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201742]

Mr. Thomas: My Department has recently undertaken energy audits across its estate. Projects identified to reduce carbon emissions include using lighting controls more effectively and piloting the use of light emitting diode (LED) technology. Staff are encouraged to use video conferencing and to consider how they travel to

meetings. Bike loans are also available to staff and environmental awareness campaigns are regularly conducted.

My Department's HQ estate expenditure on energy for the last two reportable years was as follows:

	£
2007-08	
Electricity	1,572,132.12
Gas	147,783.77
2006-07	
Electricity	1,587,809.42
Gas	169,689.90

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessors since May 1997. [198287]

Mr. Thomas: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its Executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200705]

Mr. Thomas: This information is set out in the Remuneration Report, which is part of the Department's resource accounts. The Department's combined annual departmental report and resource accounts are published in July.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many public consultations were held by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and how many respondents took part in each consultation. [198639]

Mr. McFadden: BERR makes extensive use of both formal and informal consultation in developing policy. DTI conducted 71 formal written consultations in 2005, 52 in 2006 and DT and BERR conducted 51 in 2007. The number of responses to these questions varied greatly, from under 10 in the case of our consultation published on 6 September 2007 on the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment to several thousand in the case of our consultation published on 18 June 2007 on Export Control Legislation. Providing precise response numbers for each of the consultations could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198977]

Mr. Thomas: The number of BERR staff who have taken leave due to stress in the last five years, broken down by pay grade is contained in the following tables.

2003

Range	*Less than 5*	*6 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 20*	*21 to 25*	*26 to 30*	*31 to 35*	*36 to 40*	*More than 40*	*2003 total*
Range 2	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	7
Range 3	4	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	2	12
Range 4	22	2	4	3	2	1	2	1	10	47
Range 5	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	8
Range 6	11	3	2	3	—	1	1	—	9	30
Range 7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Range 8	6	1	3	—	3	2	2	—	8	25
Range 9	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Faststream	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Range 10	3	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	9
Range 11	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	7
Grand total	56	11	16	9	7	6	6	3	37	151

2004

Range	*Less than 5*	*6 to 10*	*11 to 15*	*16 to 20*	*21 to 25*	*26 to 30*	*31 to 35*	*36 to 40*	*More than 40*	*2004 total*
Range 2	6	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	12
Range 3	8	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	15
Range 4	22	2	5	4	1	1	1	—	5	41
Range 5	3	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	4	11
Range 6	9	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	13
Range 7	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6

2004

Range	Less than 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	More than 40	2004 total
Range 8	10	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	4	19
Range 9	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	6
Faststream	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Range 10	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5
Range 11	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3
Grand total	66	7	15	8	4	4	2	1	24	131

2005

Range	Less than 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	More than 40	2005 total
Range 2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Range 3	13	1	3	3	1	—	—	—	2	23
Range 4	28	2	4	1	1	—	3	—	5	44
Range 5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Range 6	8	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	4	17
Range 7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Range 8	11	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	16
Range 9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
Faststream	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Range 10	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	6
Range 11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Grand total	68	8	10	4	3	2	4	1	21	121

2006

Range	Less than 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	More than 40	2006 total
Range 2	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	8
Range 3	11	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	2	18
Range 4	54	4	3	5	4	8	2	1	12	93
Range 5	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	2	5	15
Range 6	17	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	4	26
Range 7	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	7
Range 8	4	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	4	12
Range 9	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	7
Faststream	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Range 10	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	7
Range 11	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Grand total	103	9	15	7	7	11	4	5	34	195

2007

Range	Less than 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	More than 40	2007 total
Range 2	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	11
Range 3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	3
Range 4	20	3	2	2	1	2	—	—	10	40
Range 5	5	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	3	12
Range 6	18	4	2	1	1	2	—	—	5	33
Range 7	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	10
Range 8	7	3	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	15
Range 9	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	6
Faststream	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Range 10	10	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	14
Range 11	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Grand total	71	14	12	8	3	7	3	—	30	148

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many full-time posts were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in his Department in each of the last three years. [200655]

Mr. Thomas: The Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform does not hold this information centrally. As this would involve manually investigating

individual records of temporary staff, the cost of doing this would be disproportionate.

Employment: Immigration

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of immigration on the wages of low-skilled workers; and what steps he is taking to mitigate any negative effects; [201480]

(2) what research he has conducted on the effect of levels of immigration on trends in wage levels; and what steps he is taking to alleviate any negative effects. [201481]

Mr. McFadden: Research conducted by the Department for Work and Pensions in 2006 (DWP Working paper No. 29) found no discernable statistical evidence to suggest that A8 migration has been a contributor to the rise in claimant unemployment in the UK.

With respect to wages, research commissioned by the Low Pay Commission in 2007 (Dustmann et al. 2007) found that immigration had a positive effect on wage growth across the earnings distribution. On average, the research found a slightly positive effect on overall wage growth, but with very modest negative effects on wage growth at the lower end of the distribution. The research also noted that the national minimum wage has played an important role in insulating the wages of low-paid workers from a larger impact.

Energy: EC Law

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will visit a controls manufacturing plant Lot 1 of the Energy-using Products Directive before its implementation. [201014]

Malcolm Wicks: I have no plans for a specific visit for this purpose at the moment, however I am aware that officials from my Department and DEFRA made a visit to the Worcester-Bosch boilers and water heaters manufacturing plant in February this year.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what his policy is on a smart meters mandate, with particular reference to provision at a regional level; [201888]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ofgem on a smart meters mandate; [201889]

(3) what plans he has to encourage the installation of smart meters in *(a)* new and *(b)* existing housing stock over the next decade. [201892]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government will seek a power under the Energy Bill that would enable it to make arrangements to roll out smart meters to all households. It intends to use these powers to provide advanced meters to larger business customers, and will take final decisions on wider smart metering thereafter. Ofgem has been closely involved in the work my Department has undertaken on smart meters, including whether and how their provision might be required.

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Sustainable Development

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what timetable he has set for the review of the statutory obligations, policies and operations of the Export Credits Guarantee Department in line with the Government's priorities for *(a)* sustainable development and *(b)* climate stability. [201445]

Malcolm Wicks: There is no current plan to review ECGD's statutory obligations, operations or policies insofar as these relate to sustainable development and climate stability. Through its business principles, ECGD has a continuing obligation to take into account Government policies, including those relating to sustainable development and the environment, in processing applications for ECGD support.

Export Credits Guarantee Dept: Standards

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the reviews of the Export Credits Guarantee Department's Case Impact Analysis Process and Business Principles will take place; and what form the public consultation on the procedures will take. [201970]

Malcolm Wicks: There is no plan to review ECGD's business principles in the immediate future.

ECGD's case impact analysis process (CIAP) is to be updated to take account of the revised 2007 OECD common approaches on the environment and officially supported export credits.

Heating: EU Law

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has carried out an impact assessment of the Energy-using Products Directive on the UK heating controls industry and on employment in the industry. [201013]

Malcolm Wicks: An impact assessment was made by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the Ecodesign for Energy-Using Products Regulations 2007, which transpose the framework Directive on Energy-using Products (EuP) in the UK. The Commission has yet to table a draft implementing measure and impact assessment for boilers and water heaters, although they have issued a first draft of a working document for discussion. As the initial implementing measures, including that on boilers and water heaters, under the EuP Directive are focused on energy efficiency, it will be for DEFRA to produce any impact assessment as necessary.

Minimum Wage

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the rate of compliance by employers with national minimum wage legislation. [200552]

Mr. McFadden: Ensuring workers and employers are aware of their rights and responsibilities is key to ensuring workers get the minimum wage due to them. In his pre-Budget report 2006, the Chancellor announced an additional £2.9 million for monitoring and enforcing the minimum wage each year for the next four years. We carried out an extensive awareness campaign this year, including radio, posters and online activity as well as an outreach bus. The focus of our campaigns to raise awareness of national minimum wage and the current rates and ensure workers and employers know where to go for advice or to make a complaint.

We are also taking steps to strengthen the national minimum wage enforcement regime in a Bill which is currently in the House of Lords. Subject to parliamentary approval, the changes proposed in this Bill will provide a clear deterrent to non-compliance: there is a new automatic penalty for employers who fail to pay their workers the national minimum wage and in addition, where workers have been underpaid, employers will have to reimburse them at current, rather than historic rates. The Bill also gives HMRC compliance officers new inspection powers and strengthens the criminal regime that applies where an employer has committed an offence.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what mechanism he plans to put in place to fund the Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board; and for what time period board members will be appointed. [202080]

Malcolm Wicks: The terms of reference for the Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board are currently in development, but will contain information on both funding arrangements and the time period board members will be appointed for. As stated in the "Consultation on Funded Decommissioning Programme Guidance for New Nuclear Power Stations" document, published on 22 February, we expect to publish the terms of reference in Q2 2008.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what postal services may be offered by local shops affected by post office closures; [201787]

(2) if he will make it his policy that shops which previously contained post offices be able to continue to offer services provided by those post offices. [201830]

Mr. McFadden: Following closure of a post office under Post Office Ltd.'s Network Change programme, a former sub-postmaster may opt to offer postal and other former post office services through another service provider. But if the option is exercised to offer such services within 12 months of the closure of the post office, the compensation payable is reduced to reflect the potential to retain that income in line with the terms of the agreement between Post Office Ltd. and the National Federation of SubPostmasters.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the likely cost of the outreach services to be provided as part of the post office closure programme in *(a)* the Cotswolds and *(b)* England. [201788]

(2) what assessment will be made of the adequacy of the outreach activities to be offered in each case where a post office is closed; and what steps will be taken in any circumstances where such services are considered to be inadequate. [201789]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance has been given to shop owners who have agreed to stop providing post office services on the compensation package to which they are entitled. [201792]

Mr. McFadden: The terms on which compensation is payable to sub-postmasters whose offices are closed under Post Office Ltd.'s Network Change programme are those agreed between the company and the National Federation of SubPostmasters.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects an announcement on post office closures in south-west Devon to be made. [201995]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* I understand that the public consultation for the Devon area plan proposals will start on 20 May and is expected to finish on 30 June 2008. Post Office Limited aims to announce final decisions three weeks after the end of the consultation period.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will instruct Post Office Ltd to provide Hampshire county council with a statement on the financial viability of specific post office branches scheduled for closure; [202675]

(2) what his policy is on county councils seeking to select post office branches for help to avoid closure; and if he will take steps to assist such councils in obtaining relevant financial information required for this purpose. [202676]

Mr. McFadden *[Holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The Government have asked Post Office Limited to engage positively with local authorities (or community groups) that wish to fund some continuing service provision where branches are scheduled for closure and where no alternative Outreach service is being provided. At the same time, the Government have made clear that Post Office Limited must ensure that any local funding arrangements do not undermine the sustainability of the wider Post Office network.

Post Offices: PayPoint Machines

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the placement of PayPoint machines in the same premises as post offices; what discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on the subject; and if he will make a statement. [201319]

Mr. McFadden: I have met and corresponded with the chief executive of PayPoint plc on this subject.

I meet regularly with Post Office Ltd to discuss a range of issues, including the services provided at Post Offices. However, the installation of a PayPoint terminal on the private side of a sub postmaster's business is a commercial matter for sub postmasters within the context of the terms of their contract with Post Office Ltd.

Recruitment: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an assessment of whether the use of information on social networking sites by employers in their recruitment procedures is likely to result in discriminatory employment practices; and if he will bring forward proposals to prevent employers from making such use of such information. [198785]

Mr. Thomas: We would certainly encourage employers to treat all job applicants courteously, fairly and objectively in their recruitment procedures. People who make information about themselves public on websites do so of their own volition. If a job applicant believes an employer has made use of such information to discriminate against them on one of the protected grounds under discrimination law, it would be open to the applicant to take action.

Regional Development Agencies

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which regional development agencies were represented at one or more political party conference in each year since 2000. [201514]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The following table shows RDAs' representation at the three main political party conferences since 2000.

	Conservative	*Labour*	*Liberal Democrat*
2007			
AWM	Yes	Yes	Yes
EEDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
EMDA	Yes	Yes	No
LDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
NWDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
ONE	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEEDA	No	No	No
SWRDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
YF	Yes	Yes	Yes
2006			
AWM	No	Yes	No
EEDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
EMDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
LDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
NWDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
ONE	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEEDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
SWRDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
YF	Yes	Yes	Yes
2005			
AWM	No	Yes	No
EEDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
EMDA	Yes	Yes	No
LDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
NWDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
ONE	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEEDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
SWRDA	No	No	No
YF	Yes	Yes	Yes
2004			
AWM	No	Yes	No
EEDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
EMDA	No	No	No
LDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
NWDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
ONE	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEEDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
SWRDA	No	No	No
YF	Yes	Yes	Yes
2003			
AWM	No	No	No
EEDA	No	No	No
EMDA	No	No	No
LDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
NWDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
ONE	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEEDA[3]			
SWRDA	No	No	No
YF	Yes	Yes	Yes
2002			
AWM	No	No	No
EEDA	No	No	No
EMDA	No	No	No
LDA[1]	Yes	Yes	Yes
NWDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
ONE	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEEDA[3]	—	—	—
SWRDA	No	No	No
YF	Yes	Yes	Yes
2001			
AWM	No	No	No
EEDA	No	No	No
EMDA	No	No	No
LDA[1]	—	—	—
NWDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
ONE	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEEDA[3]	—	—	—
SWRDA	No	No	No
YF	Yes	Yes	Yes

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
2000			
AWM	No	No	No
EEDA	No	No	No
EMDA	No	No	No
LDA[1]	—	—	—
NWDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
ONE[2]	—	—	—
SEEDA[3]	—	—	—
SWRDA	No	No	No
YF	No	No	No

[1] LDA records for representation at party conferences for 2000, 2001 and 2002 are held in archive (off site).
[2] ONE does not hold records for representation at party conferences before 2001.
[3] SEED A has no central records for representation at party conferences before 2004.

Renewable Energy: Seas and Oceans

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of *(a)* the potential to derive energy from ocean swell and *(b)* designs which are capable of capturing energy from very large ocean swell; and if he will make a statement. [201937]

Malcolm Wicks: The Carbon Trust has estimated that the total resource for, wave and tidal stream/range generation in the UK is around 43 GW. They have estimated that, ultimately, around 15-20 per cent. of the UK's current electricity demand could be supplied by wave and tidal stream technologies. Of this, 10-15 per cent. could be from ocean swell (i.e. wave) energy.

There are a wide range of devices being developed to generate electricity from ocean waves but none has yet progressed to a stage where they are ready for deployment at a commercial scale. The Government have provided support for research and development into wave energy to meet the needs of innovation at all stages of technology readiness. This includes funding through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council "SuperGen" programme, the Technology Strategy Board, the new Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) and the Carbon Trust. The ETI's first call for expressions of interest, launched in December 2007, included proposals for research into wave and tidal energy.

In addition, BERR has £42 million funding available under the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund to support the commercial demonstration of full scale wave and tidal energy devices. When they are deployed, they will be supported by the renewables obligation, under which they will receive an enhanced level of support.

Government support for wave and tidal energy technologies will be reviewed as part of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation which is due to be published in the summer.

Renewable Energy: Severn Estuary

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the feasibility study into the options for generating renewable electricity in the Severn Estuary will include assumptions about the price and availability of oil during the construction, operation, decommissioning and removal of each option. [202339]

Malcolm Wicks: Yes we intend to use consistent oil assumptions when comparing options.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission a small-scale trial of tidal lagoon technology during the Government's feasibility study into the options for generating renewable electricity in the Severn Estuary. [202340]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have proposed amendments to the Renewables Obligation to support tidal lagoons and barrages below 1GW. It will be for project developers to obtain the necessary consents and permissions through the usual procedures. The feasibility study will consider tidal lagoons alongside other options.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the feasibility study into the options for generating renewable electricity in the Severn Estuary will take into account the *(a)* location, *(b)* size, *(c)* objective, *(d)* costs and *(e)* impacts of the compensatory habitats associated with each option. [202341]

Malcolm Wicks: We will make clear in the options appraisal what assumptions are being made on compensatory habitat.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the feasibility study into the options for generating renewable electricity in the Severn Estuary will consider the *(a)* methods, *(b)* resources, *(c)* assumptions and *(d)* costs associated with the decommissioning and removal of each option. [202351]

Malcolm Wicks: We will be issuing a call for evidence through the strategic environmental assessment process through which we will ask for details of decommissioning plans for all options.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the feasibility study into the options for generating renewable electricity in the Severn Estuary will consider the latest performance and environmental impact data relating to the Annapolis Royal barrage in Nova Scotia, Canada. [202353]

Malcolm Wicks: The feasibility study will look at the experience of other tidal installations, including Annapolis Royal, recognising the Severn Estuary is not an exact replica of the Bay of Fundy.

Small Businesses: Construction

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to provide loans to small and medium sized enterprises which are construction companies to assist them in meeting the capital costs associated with high energy-efficiency construction projects. [202531]

Mr. Thomas: BERR has no plans to develop loan funds targeted specifically at construction sectors delivering energy-efficiency projects.

Small and medium size businesses operating in construction and energy sectors are already eligible for the Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG), subject to lenders normal lending criteria. This is the Government's principal debt finance instrument, managed as part of BERR's strategy to help businesses to be able to access finance they need. In the Financial Year 2006-07 almost 5 per cent. of the overall distribution of SFLG lending went to businesses operating across construction sectors.

UK/US Defence Technology Co-operation Treaty

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will provide assistance to small and medium-sized businesses to enable them to take advantage of the UK/US Defence Technology Co-operation Treaty. [201578]

Mr. Thomas: A key aim of the US/UK Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty is to remove the administrative burden of applying for and processing US export licences, helping all companies to reduce their costs in this area. Once the treaty is ratified by the United States, the MOD will develop and issue guidance for industry which will be supported by training packages as required. BERR's Export Control Organisation will provide information to business on the interaction between the treaty and UK export controls.

In addition, MOD is working closely with the larger defence companies to find the best ways for their sub-contractors to take advantage of the treaty.

The UKTI Defence and Security Organisation (DSO) will continue to offer support to defence SMEs through its existing Charter scheme. More generally, Business Link has been created to act as the primary channel for all businesses providing them with access to the help and support they need to start and develop their business.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199586]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that the Department and its predecessors have paid the following to Zurich Financial Services since 1997:

	Purpose	*Amount (£)*
2002	Partnership Fund Grant Payment	14,220
2003	Partnership Fund Grant Payment	7,295

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 1 May 2008

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Solicitor-General what investigations the Serious Fraud Office has conducted into BAE Systems since 2003; and on what date each *(a)* began and *(b)* ended. [203343]

The Solicitor-General: There have been five investigations conducted by the Serious Fraud Office into BAE Systems since 2003. All five investigations began on 14 July 2004. The Serious Fraud Office decided to discontinue the investigation into the affairs of BAE Systems as far as they relate to the Al Yamamah defence contract with the Government of Saudi Arabia on 14 December 2006. The other four investigations continue.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force [201732]

David Cairns: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 83 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was nine, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

East of England Development Agency: Fishburn Hedges

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments the East of England Development Agency made to Fishburn Hedges in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202251]

Mr. McFadden: Since February 2005, Fishburn Hedges have provided the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) with a wide range of consultancy services in support of EEDA's external communications and campaigns. These services have included campaigns development, design, production, printing, copywriting, database development and public affairs consultancy across the organisation.

Across these services the following total payments were made:

	£
2005	81,905.26
2006	168,483.98
2007	217,230.60
2008	21,240.04

Salmon: Imports

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to maintain the minimum import price for farmed salmon. [202804]

Mr. Thomas: The European Commission is currently conducting an interim review of the anti-dumping measures, in the form of a minimum import price, against imports

of farmed salmon from Norway. This Department has contributed fully to this review, working closely with the Scottish Executive, the Irish Government and the EU Salmon Producers Group. In addition, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has spoken on a number of occasions in support of the measures with Peter Mandelson, the European Trade Commissioner, and Alex Salmond, Scottish First Minister. The outcome of the review is expected during May.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Early Day Motions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the use of early day motions by hon. Members. [201230]

Helen Goodman: As the hon. Member is aware, the use made of early day motions by hon. Members was considered in the Procedure Committee's First Report of Session 2006-07 (HC 513). The Committee identified a number of broad purposes for which EDMs were used, including: expressing opinions on issues of general public interest, continuing a policy debate, giving prominence to a campaign or the work of a pressure group, and highlighting local issues. The Committee recommended against introducing any new restrictions on the permissible subject matter for EDMs.

In their response to the Committee (Cm. 7193) in July 2007, the Government agreed with this approach, noting that

> "Members value the breadth of opportunity provided by the right to table an EDM on almost any subject, which enables them to raise a range of constituency or general issues which cannot be raised in other ways".

The Government have not made any separate or further assessment of EDMs.

Members: PICT

Robert Key: To ask the Leader of the House how many computers in hon. Members' offices provided by PICT are marked with the instruction that they are not to be used after 8 May 2008; and if she will make a statement. [202320]

Helen Goodman: Members' computers are included in a Portable Appliances Test (PAT) rolling programme. These appliances are marked with an instruction that they are not to be used after the date by which the next PAT test is scheduled to be completed, in this case 8 May. The programme has commenced in Portcullis House and it is planned to test all appliances prior to the date on each appliance instruction.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Retail Packaging

10. **Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government plan to take to reduce the use of packaging by retailers. [202797]

Joan Ruddock: European Packaging Regulations are designed to reduce the amount of packaging used by retailers. But slow progress led to a voluntary agreement between Government and retailers, called the Courtauld Commitment, facilitated by the Waste and Resource Action Programme. This agreement aims this year to halt packaging growth and to make absolute reductions in packaging by 2010.

Foot and Mouth

11. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if the Government will provide compensation to swill-feeders in connection with foot and mouth disease. [202798]

Jonathan Shaw: No. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration reported on this issue in December 2007. She concluded that, as the Government have revisited the original decision not to pay compensation many times since 2001, there is no un-remedied injustice which requires reconsideration of the question.

Pitt Review

12. **Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how he plans to allocate the £34.5 million to implement the Pitt review's recommendations on flooding. [202799]

Hilary Benn: We have announced an initial provision of £34.5 million funding over the three years to 2010-11 which may be needed to implement the Pitt recommendations. We will determine how this should be spent when we see the final Pitt report and the priorities which it contains.

Newt Populations

13. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what has been spent on relocating newt populations in the last 12 months. [202801]

Joan Ruddock: The costs to individual projects of relocating great crested newt colonies are not centrally recorded; neither is that information collected by Natural England as part of the licensing regime.

Imported Biomass

14. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the sustainability of imported biomass. [202802]

Mr. Woolas: I have regular discussions with my ministerial colleagues about biomass issues.

The UK's Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation came into force on 15 April. Fuel companies must submit reports to the Government on the biofuels they supply, including information on levels of greenhouse gas savings, as well as their environmental and social impacts. This information will be published.

20. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the sustainability of imported biomass. [202809]

Mr. Woolas: I have regular discussions with my ministerial colleagues about biomass issues.

The UK's renewable transport fuel obligation came into force on 15 April. Fuel companies must submit reports to the Government on the biofuels they supply, including information on levels of greenhouse gas savings, as well as their environmental and social impacts. This information will be published.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

15. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on proposals to protect nitrate vulnerable zones. [202803]

Mr. Woolas: The Government sought views on the measures in the revised Nitrates Action Programme through a consultation, which ran from August to December 2007. Over 600 responses were received. A comprehensive report summarising the comments made was published on 19 March and is available on the DEFRA website.

Chewing Gum

16. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with ministerial colleagues in HM Treasury on the use of tax incentives for manufacturers of chewing gum to encourage the development of a biodegradable product. [202805]

Jonathan Shaw: Any decision on taxation is for my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. However, I am not convinced that taxation will solve the problem which is people dropping litter, be it gum or any other type.

I am pleased to see that Nottingham city council is taking part in this year's chewing gum litter awareness campaign.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

17. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues at the Department for Transport on the effect on climate change of transport-related carbon dioxide emissions. [202806]

Hilary Benn: I regularly meet with Department for Transport Ministers to discuss ways that the transport sector can contribute to our commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The recently published "Towards a Sustainable Transport System" demonstrates the Government's commitment to ensuring the transport sector plays its full role in tackling climate change.

Ofwat Price Review

18. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the 2009 Ofwat price review. [202807]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has received a range of views about this.

21. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the 2009 Ofwat price review. [202810]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has received a range of views about this.

Post-Kyoto Agreement

19. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on an agreement on climate change since the Bali summit. [202808]

Mr. Woolas: Following the Bali UNFCCC summit all parties to the Convention met in Bangkok last month to agree a workplan for this year on the four areas to be agreed—mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance/investment. In addition ministerial colleagues and I have taken part in several other discussions on achieving a new agreement, including the Major Economies Process, the G8 Gleneagles dialogue and at the OECD. Since Bali I have also had bilateral meetings with many of the key countries to discuss progress.

National Food Supply

22. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure the security of the national food supply. [202811]

Jonathan Shaw: Food security is about ensuring consumers have access to a stable and adequate supply of food. This requires effective risk management and contingency planning, security of our energy supplies, access to food from a variety of sources and a strong food chain and infrastructure.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the revenue raised through modulation of the single farm payment was spent on in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [201608]

Jonathan Shaw: Money raised through modulation of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and other direct payments is transferred to Pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy and is used to fund rural development programmes.

Modulation receipts in England from the 2005, 2006 and 2007 SPS schemes years form part of the funding of the England Rural Development Programme 2000-2006 and latterly the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013.

Further details on modulation expenditure for 2005-06 and 2006-07 can be found in the England Rural Development Annual Reports on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/docs/ann_rep.htm.

The Rural Development Programme for England Annual Report 2007-08 will be available in the summer.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value of the modulation element of the single farm payment in England was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [201610]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table provides total modulation deductions to date for each scheme year of the Single Payment Scheme:

SPS scheme year[1]	*£ million*[2]
2005	81.47
2006	163.79
2007[3]	251.10

[1] Scheme year refers to claims submitted in that calendar year for which the payment window runs from December to 30 June of the following calendar year.
[2] All figures subject to change as payments are made or adjusted.
[3] Approximately 16 per cent. of the value of 2007 SPS payments remain to be made.

Beekeeping

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department plans to spend on research into bee diseases in the next three years. [202789]

Jonathan Shaw: Detailed allocations for all of DEFRA's programmes have still to be finalised, including those for research. The expectation is that funding for commissioned research into bee health will be around the same level as in previous years. Research priorities are addressed in the draft Bee Health strategy which has been published for public consultation.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the incidence of disease in the honeybee population. [202800]

Jonathan Shaw: The National Bee Unit operates a statutory inspection programme for American foul brood, European foul brood and exotic pests which have yet to be found in the UK. It is too early to assess disease incidence this season although there are indications of some significant colony losses across the country which are under investigation.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions on the new bovine tuberculosis strategy with the RSPCA. [202432]

Jonathan Shaw: The RSPCA is an important stakeholder and we will keep in touch with them as we continue to develop our policies on bovine TB.

British Waterways: Weber Shandwick Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments British Waterways made to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202290]

Jonathan Shaw: British Waterways have made no payments to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in respect of its activities in England and Wales in the last five years.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in meeting the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan target of reducing emissions from the UK's residential housing stock by 31 per cent. on 1990 levels by 2020. [202617]

Mr. Woolas: As it is less than a year since the adoption of the action plan it is too soon to assess progress towards the 9 per cent. energy-saving target but there have been significant steps forward in the household sector since the action plan was published. These include the commencement of the carbon emissions reduction target on 1 April and the launch, also on 1 April, of the Green Homes Service with funding of £26 million in 2008-09 to help over two million people in its first year to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, choose lower emissions transport, reduce waste and conserve water.

Carbon Trust: Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments the Carbon Trust made to *(a)* Citigate Public Affairs, *(b)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs and *(c)* Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202294]

Mr. Woolas: The Carbon Trust is a private company limited by guarantee.

English Nature: Citigate Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments English Nature made to Citigate Public Affairs in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202295]

Jonathan Shaw: Citigate were contracted to undertake a parliamentary monitoring service for English Nature, and subsequently Natural England (following the merger of the three founding bodies of Natural England on 1 October 2006), for daily monitoring of parliamentary information.

Citigate payments

	£
2003-04	6,606
2004-05	6,859
2005-06	9,224
2006-07	5,640
2007-08	2,350

Farms: Official Visits

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms he has visited since taking up his position, in each Government region; and if he will make a statement. [192899]

Jonathan Shaw: In addition to attending the Royal Show, the Great Yorkshire Show and the Oxford Farming Conference and having a number of meetings with both farmers and their representative bodies, the Secretary of State has visited farms in the following regions:

	Farms
North-west	2
East of England	1
South-west	1
London	1

Flood Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the powers and responsibilities of internal drainage boards (IDBs) including the opportunity for areas currently not covered by an IDB to opt in to those services. [202491]

Mr. Woolas: One of Sir Michael Pitt's interim conclusions was that flooding legislation should be updated and streamlined under a single unifying Act of Parliament that, among other outcomes, addresses all sources of flooding, clarifies responsibilities and facilitates flood risk management. DEFRA recognises the force of this argument and is considering current legislation and how it might be improved.

Food: Marketing

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider the merits of introducing in England grants for farmers with similar purposes to those of the food processing and marketing grants in place in Wales. [202100]

Jonathan Shaw: Grants for the purposes mentioned by my hon. Friend have already been introduced in England. The Processing and Marketing Grant scheme is an important element in the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13. It is designed to assist in the achievement of improved competitiveness by boosting productivity, creating enhanced added value and applying innovative technology. It is aimed at Welsh farmers, growers, foresters, food and drink manufacturers and processors. Assistance aimed at providing their English counterparts with the same benefits is provided under Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme for England, which includes a range of measures designed to increase the competitiveness of the agriculture and forestry sectors. The budget for the whole of Axis 1 is some £250 million over the Programming period 2007-13.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider the merits of introducing in England a scheme designed to promote the food production industry similar to the True Taste of Wales programme. [202101]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of our programme to support the quality regional food sector in England, DEFRA has provided funding for a number of award schemes with similar objectives to the True Taste of Wales programme. These include:

1. The Guild of Fine Foods Retailers' annual Great Taste Awards and associated promotional events, such as Taste British Gold: a two-week in- store promotion featuring gold winners from the Taste Awards

2. The AA Regional Food Awards aimed at showcasing and encouraging the use of quality regional ingredients and

3. The Daily Telegraph Taste of Britain awards which are a celebration of good quality local and regional British food.

Hunting: Fines

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce measures under the cross-compliance rules governing the common agricultural policy to deduct payments from landowners who have permitted their land to be used for *(a)* illegal poisoning of birds of prey and *(b)* hunting with hounds. [201489]

Jonathan Shaw: The cross compliance rules under the common agricultural policy already allow for a reduction in payments for claimants who permit their land to be used for illegal poisoning of birds of prey.

Hunting with hounds on the other hand is not covered by the statutory management requirements nor identified as one of the 'issues' or 'standards' in the good agricultural and environmental condition framework which member states are obliged to consider under the cross compliance rules.

Meat and Livestock Commission: Weber Shandwick Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments the Meat and Livestock Commission made to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202291]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table details the payments, and their purpose, made by the Meat and Livestock Commission to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in the last five years:

Meat and Livestock Commission

Account	£
2003-04	
Consultancy	8,500.00
Conferences	750
Public relations	275,125.31
Promotional activity—general	51,563.88
	335,939.19
2004-05	
Consultancy	24,201.16
Meetings-groups	7,834.80
Public relations	163,977.21
Consumer public relations	25,478.65
Agency fees	526.45
2005-06	
Public relations	211,746.21
Consumer public relations	93.17
Agency fees	236.8
Food Service	6,764.75
Industry awards	6,421.07
	225,262.00

Natural England: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the adequacy of the Government's funding of Natural England and *(b)* the effect of funding levels on Natural England's ability to support local groups such as the Stroud Valleys Project in Stroud constituency. [202427]

Jonathan Shaw: We announced core funding of £176 million for Natural England in 2008-09 on 21 February. The board of Natural England consider that to be a good settlement in the current financial climate. Decisions on funding for individual projects and grants are a matter for Natural England and its board.

Securing a healthy natural environment remains a top priority and is one of my Department's two high level goals alongside tackling climate change. Natural England will be a key contributor to this work. I am confident that the budget allocation we have made for this year will enable Natural England to play a major part in delivering those goals.

Natural England: Grayling Political Strategy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments Natural England made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202296]

Jonathan Shaw: Grayling were contracted by Countryside Agency to run a series of seminars/events in 2004-05 relating to the transfer of responsibilities to other Government Offices and Agencies as a result of the Haskins Review.

Grayling payments

	£
2003-04	0
2004-05	93,909
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0

Nature Conservation: Climate Change

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to assess the extent of damage to wildlife resulting from the effects of climate change. [202525]

Joan Ruddock: Key impacts of climate change on wildlife have already been observed, including changes in the timings of seasonal events, shifts in the ranges of species, and changes to habitats and ecosystems.

In 2007, the Government responded, with others, by publishing the guidance "Conserving Biodiversity in a Changing Climate" aimed at those planning and delivering wildlife conservation in the UK. The guidance helps conservation practitioners to build capacity to adapt and, amongst other principles, acknowledges the importance of continued monitoring to enable them to identify and respond to the impacts of climate change on wildlife.

DEFRA has an ongoing programme of research to assess the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. Last year the results of two projects were published:

The "MONARCH report (Modelling Natural Resource Responses to Climate Change)" modelled possible changes to some UK species ranges in response to different climate scenarios; and

"England Biodiversity Strategy"—towards adaptation to climate change which reviewed the scientific evidence and summarised the impacts of climate change on the biodiversity of England.

A review of the impacts of climate change on migratory species was published in 2005 and we are currently funding further research into identifying migratory species which could be used as indicators to monitor the effects of climate change. DEFRA has invested in the National Biodiversity Network, the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and the Environmental Change Network which, amongst several other objectives, also provide means of detecting ongoing impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria were used to determine the membership of *(a)* the Criteria Proposals Group and *(b)* the Criteria Review Panel in respect of geological screening criteria for radioactive waste disposal sites developed by his Department. [202081]

Mr. Woolas: The two groups were recruited by the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme sponsor bodies (DEFRA, Business Enterprise and Regulatory

Reform, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland) following discussion with, and nominations by, the learned societies—the Royal Society, the Geological Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering.

DEFRA's Chief Scientific Adviser was also involved and the scientific disciplines sought were geology, hydrogeology and rock mechanics. Membership represented a high calibre mix of academic and industrial practitioners.

A Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) member participated in the Criteria Proposal Group's work and a technical specialist from the Environment Agency also served on Criteria Review Panel.

Further information on the Groups' work is available on DEFRA's website.

Rights of Way

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Minister authorised the establishment of the Discovering Lost Ways project; and if he will instigate an investigation into the reasons for the project not achieving its objectives. [201791]

Jonathan Shaw: The Countryside Agency established the Discovering Lost Ways (DLW) Project following publication of the Rural White Paper Implementation Plan of March 2001, using funds provided by DEFRA under the authority of the then Environment Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher).

Section 53 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provided for the extinguishment, in 2026, of public rights of way that existed prior to 1949, unless recorded by 2026 on the definitive map and statement maintained by the highway authority. The DLW project trialled the use of systematic data collection techniques to fulfil the Government's aim as set out in the 2000 Rural White Paper, of recording of such rights before 2026.

Natural England, the successor body to the Countryside Agency, has now reviewed the DLW Project. Its investigations found that even this systematic research approach could not remove the requirement for further detailed research into cases by the highway authority, and for a public inquiry to be held whenever the recording of such a right was opposed. As a result it considers there is no prospect of processing of the evidence collected by the 2026 cut-off date and accordingly Natural England is terminating the research contract. I do not consider any further investigation to be necessary.

Natural England is preparing to convene a Stakeholder Working Group to consider the scope for an agreed package of the reforms in this area. The Government have endorsed this as an appropriate way forward, and will consider any recommendations from the Group in due course, although this does not mean that the Government are, at this stage, committing to further legislative reform. We have written to stakeholders indicating that we will not bring section 53 into effect at least until we know the outcome of this Group's work.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme and *(b)* his Department has purchased the Handbook on the implementation of Pay as You Throw as a tool for urban waste management produced by Dresden University of Technology. [202943]

Joan Ruddock: The Library of my Department advises that it has not purchased a copy, however the handbook was considered as part of the report carried out for DEFRA into "Modelling the Impact of Household Charging for Waste in England". This report is available on the DEFRA website.

In addition, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) informs me that it has not purchased a copy.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Daycare

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of children in lower-income working families accessing child care through extended schools; and what progress is being made towards meeting the sub-target of his Department's Public Service Agreement target 3. [200820]

Mr. Timms: The data requested are not available.

Information relating to what progress has been made towards meeting this public service agreement target is available in the departmental Autumn Performance Report 2007. This is available in the Library and can also be viewed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/autumnreport/full-report07.pdf

Figures showing progress towards Public Service Agreement 3 will be available when the results of the 2007 Childcare Survey are published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families later this year.

Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time for an appeal against refusal of disability living allowance to be determined was in the latest period for which figures are available; what is the longest time a person has been waiting for an appeal to be heard; how many people have been waiting *(a)* three, *(b)* six or *(c)* more than six months for a hearing; and if he will make a statement. [202097]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Information is compiled for appeals against refusal for disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) together. To separate the two would incur disproportionate cost and therefore the answer has been provided for both DLA and AA.

The table provides an indication of waiting times. These figures may be slightly overstated due to data reconciliation across two different databases.

We are unable to provide the longest waiting time for an appellant in a DLA case as the historical data are not robust due to inconsistencies across the aforementioned two databases.

Average length of time and waiting times for an appeal against refusal for disability living allowance and attendance allowance, 2007-08

	Number	Percentage
Average length of time for an appeal for disability living allowance and attendance allowance	9.5 weeks	
Number of people waiting:		
(a) up to three months	47,875	81
(b) three to six months	10,700	18
(c) more than six months	855	1

Source:
The Tribunals Service

Disability Living Allowance: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of disability living allowance *(a)* payments and *(b)* administration was in each of the last five years. [201465]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* Information on administration costs is not available prior to 2006-07. The available information is in the following tables.

Disability living allowance expenditure

	Nominal terms	£ million Real terms (2008-09 prices)
2003-04	7,582	8,704
2004-05	8,079	9,025
2005-06	8,618	9,428
2006-07	9,155	9,737
2007-08 (Forecast outturn)	9,834	10,129

Source:
DWP Expenditure tables.

Estimated disability living allowance administration costs

	£ million
2006-07	127
2007-08	132

Source:
PDCS Management Information.

Disability Living Allowance: Standards

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to review the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* administration of the disability living allowance. [201466]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* Disability living allowance remains under continual review to ensure that it continues to provide help with the extra costs that people with disabilities face.

We are also continually monitoring the way that disability living allowance is administered to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our customers.

The introduction of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service will enable us to provide a more integrated and seamless service. We will be introducing a wider programme of reviews and interventions, and will continue to provide improved training for decision-making staff to help ensure the accuracy of disability living allowance awards.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made towards improving the accuracy of estimates for the take-up of disability living allowance amongst disabled people. [200784]

Mrs. McGuire: We commissioned the Policy Studies Institute to investigate possible methods of estimating take-up of disability living allowance. Its initial feasibility study was published in July 2007, "The take-up rate of Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance: Feasibility study" DWP report 442 and recommended a survey-based approach, subject to further development and testing of the feasibility. Since then we have commissioned the Policy Studies Institute to continue this approach and work is currently ongoing.

Incapacity Benefits: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the process by which assessments are made of whether people with myalgic encephalopathy may receive benefits; what account the process takes of the rate of successful appeals against decisions to deny benefits in such cases; and if he will make a statement. [201837]

Mrs. McGuire: We have already reviewed the process for assessing whether people with medical conditions, including myalgic encephalopathy, may receive incapacity benefits.

The new work capability assessment for employment and support allowance will be a fair, robust and accurate assessment of limited capability for work which takes account of all conditions, including those that are long-term and that fluctuate such as myalgic encephalopathy.

Updated medical guidance on myalgic encephalopathy for disability living allowance decision makers was published in July 2007. There are no current plans for further revision of the process.

The process for employment and support allowance and disability living allowance does not take account of the rate of successful appeals. However, we will continue to monitor new research and evidence, including relevant case law, in this area.

Industrial Health and Safety

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of work-related major and fatal injuries per

100,000 employees in each year since 2004; and what progress is being made towards meeting his Department's Public Service Agreement target 5. [200822]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table sets out the published statistics for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.The figures for 2007-08 will be published in autumn 2008.

	Rate of reported injury (per 100,000 employees)		
	Fatal injury	*Major injury*	*Fatal and major injury*
2004-05	0.7	117.9	118.6
2005-06	0.6	110.5	111.1
2006-07[1]	0.7	107.0	107.7

[1] Provisional
Source:
RIDDOR

The PSA target five is to improve

"By 2008, improve health and safety outcomes in Great Britain through progressive improvement in the control of risk in the workplace".

The PSA target is measured against six sub-targets, including one for fatal and major injuries—a 3 per cent. reduction on the 2004-05 baseline. The HSE publishes a statistics progress report annually. The latest report for the period 2006-07 indicates that for major and fatal injuries HSE is on track to meet the PSA target.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199611]

Mr. Plaskitt: Current DWP records extend back to the 2003-04 financial year.

The annual spend with JP Morgan from 2003-04 is as follows:

	£
2003-04	0.00
2004-05	136.00
2005-06	120.00
2006-07	863.00
2007-08	10,369.00

In all cases, these payments were made in respect of client facing programmes, in particular, Access to Work—Payments for Support Workers.

Information is not available for the period prior to 2003 and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pension, Disability and Carers Service: Public Appointments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure his Department incurred in recruiting the chief executive of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service. [199464]

Mrs. McGuire: The expenditure—over and above normal DWP staff time—incurred in recruiting the chief executive of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service was £2,350.

Pensioners: Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures the Government has implemented to help pensioners out of poverty since 1997. [201558]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have introduced a number of measures since 1997 to help older people out of poverty. These include the introduction of the minimum income guarantee and its successor pension credit. We have successively raised the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit by earnings in every year since its introduction. For 2008 we raised the standard minimum guarantee to £124.05—an increase of 4.2 per cent.—more than keeping pace with earnings and prices. The value of the safety net we provide for the poorest pensioners has increased by over a third in real terms since 1997.

In addition we have introduced winter fuel payments for those aged 60 or over, with a higher amount for those 80 or over. And we will be making an additional payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. We have also introduced free television licences for people aged 75 or over and made above inflation increases in the basic state pension.

Between 1996-97 and 2005-06 the number of pensioners in poverty in the UK, after housing costs, has fallen by over a third from 2.9 million to 1.8 million (measured by 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs.) Once housing costs are accounted for, pensioners are less likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole.

Our commitments in the Pensions Act 2007 to continue to uprate the pension credit standard minimum guarantee in line with earnings over the long term, and to reintroduce the earnings link to basic state pension from 2012, or by the end of the next parliament, will help secure these gains into the future.

Poverty: Inverness

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* children and *(b)* pensioners were living in poverty in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each year since 1997. [200084]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available at the constituency level.

Remploy: York

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions who made the decision to close the Remploy factory in York. [202689]

Mrs. McGuire: The closure of Remploy's York factory was included in the Remploy modernisation plan. The modernisation plan was approved by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and was announced to Parliament on 29 November 2007.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals were working at Remploy in York at the time of its closure. [202690]

Mrs. McGuire: 50 individuals were working at the Remploy factory in York at the time of closure.

Winter Fuel Payments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of extending the winter fuel payment scheme to disabled people under 60 years who are in receipt of *(a)* the middle or higher rate care component and *(b)* the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance in each of the next five years. [200574]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Winter fuel payments were created to give pensioners reassurance that they can afford to heat their homes in winter. It is paid in a lump sum each winter to ensure that money is available when fuel bills arrive.

Help is already available through disability benefits and the disability premium in income-related benefits in recognition of the extra costs, including heating, which disabled people may have. The extra heating needs of disabled people by and large, arise all year round, not just in the winter months.

Information is not available in the format requested. Many individuals are in receipt of both a care component and mobility component of disability living allowance (DLA).

The following table details the estimated cost of extending winter fuel payments to individuals in receipt of some combination of the higher or middle rate care component of DLA and/or the higher rate mobility component of DLA or one of these components on its own.

All under 60 (including children)	*2008-09 prices (£ million)*
Total cost in each year	
2008-09	290
2009-10	290
2010-11	290
2011-12	285
2012-13	280
Total cost over five years	1,435

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 5 million.
2. Figures are consistent with Budget 2008 Expenditure Forecasts.
3. Figures are based on DLA liveload forecasts for GB which include some cases where the DLA payment is suspended.
4. Figures above include claimants aged under 60 (including children) with high/middle care and/or high mobility component.
5. It is assumed that each claimant is the sole qualifier in the household and is awarded a winter fuel payment of £200. This is likely to over-estimate the total cost as it does not account for any shared payments.
6. Costs in 2008-09 prices fall over time under the assumption of the winter fuel payment being fixed in cash terms.

Source:
DWP Forecasts.

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 162349, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on national insurance numbers. [171133]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 576-77W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 162690, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on national insurance registrations. [171143]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 578-79W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 162348, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on national insurance and non-UK citizens. [171150]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 579-80W.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Education

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on ensuring that the 2012 Olympic Games delivers a lasting educational legacy. [202685]

Tessa Jowell: I have met with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on a number of occasions to discuss the educational legacy, including the ongoing review of potential options for securing an educational legacy at the site which is currently being led by an independent adviser.

Olympic Games 2012: Land

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of sites in the post-2012 Olympic Park has been sold off; and if she will make a statement. [203342]

Tessa Jowell: The London Development Agency, who own the Olympic park site have not sold off any proportion of the post 2012 Olympic park.

Olympic Games 2012: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which Welsh companies have registered for the CompeteFor service for the Olympics. [203164]

Tessa Jowell: To the end of April, over 323 Welsh businesses have registered on CompeteFor. The names of individual businesses registered on CompeteFor cannot

be placed in the public domain, as the CompeteFor terms and conditions provide confidentiality for users. Of the 323 businesses, over a third have five or less employees, and approximately another third have between five and 30. The remaining have over 30 employees. Most of the registered businesses are limited companies, but there have also been registrations from charities, not-for-profit organisations, sole traders, and partnerships.

The CompeteFor system and the wider 2012 London Business Network have been developed to give businesses up and down the country access to opportunities in the 2012 supply chains. So far the level of take up by Welsh businesses has been low: the 323 figure above represents only 2 per cent. of the total registrations. I would encourage as many Welsh businesses as possible, alongside those in the rest of the UK, to take advantage of these opportunities.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has been given of the time it will take to complete the construction of each aircraft carrier once the physical process of construction has begun. [202673]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* Construction of each ship will take an estimated five and a half years.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what British units in the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF) will be deployed in *(a)* a JRRF capacity and *(b)* another capacity between July to December 2008. [201022]

Des Browne: The Joint Rapid Reaction Force is a high readiness contingency capability. As such, it is impossible to predict with certainty which units will be employed on what operations in the second half of this year, as new unforeseen operational requirements may emerge.

Details of the units due to be committed to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are regularly announced, most recently in my written statement of 24 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 107WS.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training exercises have been cancelled because of equipment shortages in each year since 2005. [200933]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 2005, no training exercises have been cancelled due to equipment shortages.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name, *(b)* location and *(c)* purpose was of each military exercise held in (i) Canada, (ii) Alaska, (iii) Norway, (iv) Iceland, (v) Greenland and (vi) Russia in which British forces have participated in each year since 1997. [200964]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 714W, on armoured fighting vehicles, if he will publish additional figures on *(a)* time in use and *(b)* mileage coverage. [201414]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Estates: Charities

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid to his Department by charity organisations for the use of its property in each year since 1997. [202384]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence: Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much in near cash terms his Department spent on urgent operational requirements in each year from 2001-02 to 2006-07; [178511]

(2) how much has been spent on urgent operational requirements in each year since 2001. [196598]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in another place by my noble Friend, Baroness Taylor, on 14 December 2007, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA85, for the cost of urgent operational requirements approved from 2002 to 2007. UORs approvals for 2007-08 are some £1.6 billion. Full figures for UORs approved in 2001-02 are not held centrally.

European Fighter Aircraft: Costs

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the effect on the public purse of halting further development of the Typhoon Eurofighter. [200539]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No such estimate has been made. The continuing development of Typhoon is necessary to ensure that the aircraft retains its operational edge over its entire planned service life.

Fleet Air Arm: Military Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Fleet Air Arm aircraft were operational at the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by aircraft type. [200303]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Lynx, Merlin and Sea King Mk7 and Mark 4 helicopters are currently deployed overseas on operations. I am withholding information on specific numbers as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of strength of the *(a)* 10th and *(b)* 14th divisions of the Iraqi Army; [200957]

(2) what assessment he has made of the capability of the *(a)* 10th and *(b)* 14th divisions of the Iraqi Army to conduct autonomous operations. [200958]

Des Browne: 10th Division Iraqi Army continues to demonstrate its ability to conduct autonomous operations within Multi National Division (South East). The current strength is around 11,300 personnel.

14th Division is making good progress in strengthening its ability to operate either with or without coalition support, although further work is required to develop its capabilities, not least given that it was only formally established in September 2007. The current strength is around 8,400 personnel. UK Military Transition Teams are providing further advice and support to 14th Division to enhance their operational capability.

Lynx Helicopters

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when a decision will be made on whether to proceed with the future Lynx project. [202321]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department's future plans are under consideration in the current planning round. Any decisions affecting Future Lynx will be announced at the appropriate moment.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration was given to the role of helicopter engineering as a part of the UK's key technologies and capabilities during the production of the Defence Industrial Strategy White Paper. [202322]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Helicopter engineering was considered during the writing of both the Defence Industrial Strategy and Defence Technology Strategy. The White Paper "Defence Industrial Strategy" (Cm 6697) listed helicopter systems engineering as one of the skills necessary to support existing capabilities in the sector. This is also covered in the Defence Technology Strategy. A copy of both strategies is available in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cricket: Broadcasting

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had on the broadcasting of Test match cricket for the period from 2010 with representatives of the English cricket squad. [202350]

Andy Burnham: I have had no discussions on the broadcasting of test match cricket for the period from 2010 with representatives of the English cricket squad.

Digital Broadcasting

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government is taking to ensure that households *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in West Lancashire constituency will be able to receive terrestrial television signals following digital switchover in 2012. [202215]

Andy Burnham: We do not hold television coverage figures for individual constituencies. However, at switchover, it is expected that UK wide coverage levels for digital terrestrial television (DTT), will reach that of present analogue services, which is 98.5 per cent. of households.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of adding the return path function to the set-top box as part of the digital switchover help scheme; [202845]

(2) what assessment he has made of the proposal that the next wave of the digital switchover help scheme procurement process should include an invitation to market test return path capability. [202846]

Andy Burnham: The Emerging Technologies Group (ETG) is responsible for keeping the core receiver requirements for the digital switchover help scheme (DSHS) under review. In recent weeks the ETG has been considering the viability of including return path capability in the DSHS set-top-box. There are however, a number of concerns about this vision, the main one being that there is not an open standard for return paths. The ETG proposes therefore to establish a dialogue with manufactures to explore the scope for the development of an open standard before taking a view on the most practical and economic way forward.

Pubwatch

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department provides for the Pubwatch scheme. [203170]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not provide financial support for Pubwatch schemes. The Statutory Guidance, issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, encourages licensing authorities, the police and other agencies to recognise the value of Pubwatch schemes and explicitly asks them to support Pubwatch aims.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Pubwatch scheme in reducing the number of occasions when licensing laws are breached. [203171]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No assessment has been made. However, we believe that national and local Pubwatch schemes make an important contribution to improved partnership working between the pub industry and the police in tackling alcohol related crime and disorder.

TRANSPORT

A1: Tree Planting

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of trees planted in Elmet constituency as a result of the upgrading of the A1 and associated works. [203334]

Mr. Tom Harris: The number of trees planted in Elmet constituency by the Highways Agency, following the upgrading of the A1 and associated works, is a total of 53,805.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what meetings she or her Ministers have had with Members of the Welsh Assembly Government on cross-border concessionary bus travel since January 2007; [200060]

(2) if she will place in the Library copies of *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails between Ministers in her Department and the Welsh Assembly Government on cross border concessionary bus travel since January 2007. [200061]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* I have not held meetings with Members of the National Assembly for Wales about cross-border concessionary travel between England and Wales, nor has the Secretary of State. The Government's priority has been the implementation of the new England-wide bus concession which came into effect on 1 April. Concessionary travel is a devolved policy area so the schemes in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland differ from the arrangements in England.

Regarding correspondence about cross-border concessionary travel between England and Wales, in August 2007 I wrote to the Deputy First Minister (Minister for the Environment and Transport) of the Welsh Assembly Government about plans for the commencement of the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007.

Officials in the Department for Transport corresponded with their counterparts in Wales during the development of the Concessionary Bus Travel Bill, which received Royal Assent in July 2007, and at this time held discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government about reciprocal arrangements for concessionary travel. There are considerable financial implications which would need to be resolved before mutual recognition could be pursued, although local authorities may continue with any current cross-border arrangements.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many freedom of information requests made to her Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201729]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 90 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 205, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what her most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which her Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based; [200696]

(2) what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which her Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91; [200697]

(3) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which her Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if she will make a statement; [200698]

(4) expenditure would be from increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which her Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if she will make a statement. [200699]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has no responsibility for any public sector pension schemes.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in her Department and its executive agencies; and if she will make a statement. [200700]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cash equivalent transfer value of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in the Department for Transport and its executive agencies is £6,205,505. Much of the detail of this is set out in the Remuneration Report, which is part of the Department's accounts.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 43-44W, on departmental telephone services, how much money *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies raised from 0845 and similar cost telephone lines in each of the last 10 years. [193990]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The money raised by the Department for Transport and its agencies from 0845 and similar cost telephone lines since the Department was formed in 2002 is set out in the following table. All of these telephone lines are either revenue neutral or the money raised is less than the cost of the service.

	Money raised (£)	*Comments*
DFT (Central)	0	One 0845 line which generates no income
DVLA	2002-03—623,539	Has 17 0800, 0870 and 0845 lines—all revenue is from the 0870 lines
	2003-04—874,965	
	2004-05—1,945,131	
	2005-06—2,423,517	
	2006-07—2,894,284	
	2007-08—2,555,102 (year to date)	
DSA	Up to 2002-03—not available	Has 4 0870 lines currently being changed to 0300 lines
	2003-04—702,326	
	2004-05—706,399	
	2005-06—693,254	
	2006-07—623,284	
	2007-08—639,048 (year to date)	
HA	0	Has 4 0845 and 0870 lines which generate no income
MCA	0	Has one 0870 line which generates no income
VOSA	Up to 2003-04—0	Has 3 0845 and 0870 lines—all revenue is from the 0870 lines
	2004-05—10,386	
	2005-06—63,407	
	2006-07—72,397	
	2007-08—62,894 (year to date)	
VCA	0	Has one 0844 line which generates no income
GCDA	0	Has no 0845 or similar lines

Freight: EU Law

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals are being discussed at an EU level on liberalisation of the haulage industry. [202980]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In May 2007 the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on access to the market in the carriage of goods by road within the Community to or from the territory of a member state or passing across the territory of one or more member states (recast).

On 7 December 2007 the Department for Transport (DFT) launched a formal consultation on this proposal. The Consultation Document and the DFT response to consultation replies can be found on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/euroadtransportproposals/

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK registered vehicles between 41 and 44 tonnes (i) entered and (ii) exited the UK in each year since 2004. [202979]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested by vehicle size is not centrally available. Annual figures on the number of UK registered and non-UK registered heavy goods vehicles leaving the country for 2007 and earlier will be published in the statistical bulletin 'Road Goods Vehicles Travelling to Mainland Europe' on 22 May 2008.

Hire and Reward Licences

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK international hire and reward licences were awarded for *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [202978]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has awarded the following number of International hire and reward licences:

Standard international hire and reward licences in issue

	Goods granted	*PSV granted*	*Total*
2003-04	722	163	885
2004-05	839	152	991
2005-06	753	153	906
2006-07	645	117	762
2007-08	559	98	657

Lorries

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in implementing the Government's proposal to charge foreign-registered lorries which use British roads a contribution towards the costs of road maintenance. [202143]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1890W.

Motor Vehicles: Petrol Alternatives

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2212W, on motor vehicles: petrol alternatives, what her estimate is of the number of forecourts that provide bio-ethanol (E85) for motor vehicles for *(a)* commercial vehicles and *(b)* private vehicles. [203166]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are 23 bio-ethanol refuelling stations in the UK. This information is gathered by the Energy Saving Trust and is not held centrally by Government. It does not differentiate between facilities for commercial and private vehicles.

Current figures are available on the Energy Saving Trust website at

www.est.org.uk.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2212W, on motor vehicles: petrol alternatives, how many infrastructure grants have been given to assist the building of refuelling stations *(a)* in total, *(b)* for natural gas/bio gas, *(c)* for hydrogen and *(d)* for bio-ethanol. [203167]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since the infrastructure grant programme was launched in 2005 there have been 23 grants given for all station types. They are broken down as:

natural gas/biogas—five grants awarded;

hydrogen—no grants awarded;

bio-ethanol (E85 and E95)—three grants awarded.

The remaining grants were for electric recharging stations.

The grants equated to the following numbers of stations:

Fuel type	*Number of stations funded*	*Total funding (£000)*
Biogas	1	362
Electric	82	171
E85 Bio-ethanol	18	128
E95 Bio-ethanol	1	33
Natural gas	4	154
Hydrogen	0	0
Total	106	847

Parking: Data Protection

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure that car park management companies which are not members of the British Parking Association, and are therefore not required to comply with the industry code of practice for parking enforcement, are not given access to personal data by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [203173]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requirement for private car parking companies who submit requests for vehicle keeper information via electronic channels to be a member of an Accredited Trade Association (ATA) was introduced following public consultation in 2006. The British Parking Association is the only existing ATA for the parking industry. Following the consultation, it was not considered necessary to extend this requirement to those who apply via the manual, paper-based channels due to the fact that each application is considered individually and additional evidence that must be provided.

DVLA will shortly be undertaking a review of all the new measures introduced in 2006. This review will consider the effectiveness of the current requirements, and all other options available.

Railways: Bicycles

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to encourage train operating companies to allow greater accommodation for cyclists and their bicycles on trains. [202910]

Mr. Tom Harris: We continue to encourage train operators to carry bikes on trains where possible. The Department for Transport's Cycling Policy document and the rail strategy White Paper published last year set out our policy: train operators should facilitate the carriage of cycles on off-peak services and accept the folding cycles at all times. However, during the peak hours, where capacity is under pressure, it can be in the interests of the majority of passengers not to permit non-folding cycles on board. It is for individual train operators to determine which services cannot accommodate non-folding bicycles and of course to determine the number of bikes which can be carried at other times.

We want all TOCs to take into account the wider benefits of cycling when considering both investments in cycle facilities and their own rules for carrying cycles. This is particularly important when procuring new rolling stock where space for bicycles must be considered.

The White Paper also announced the setting up of a Task Force to look into how bike and rail journeys can be better integrated. The Task Force which includes ATOC, Network Rail, Passenger Focus and Cycling England have begun their work and I look forward to hearing about their progress.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents resulting in *(a)* injury and *(b)* death occurred in each year since 2001. [203234]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents resulting in *(a)* injury and *(b)* death in Great Britain from 2001 to 2006 are shown in the table.

	Number of accidents resulting in		
	Injury[1]	*Death*[2]	*Total*
2001	225,838	3,176	229,014
2002	218,627	3,124	221,751
2003	210,783	3,247	214,030
2004	204,432	2,978	207,410
2005	195,822	2,913	198,735
2006	186,235	2,926	189,161

[1] Seriously or slightly injured.
[2] An accident is classified according to the severity of the most severely injured casualty. A fatal accident may therefore also include seriously or slightly injured casualties.

The number of reported personal injury road accidents, by severity from 1979 to 2006 are also available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/315281/personalinjury.xls.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money was spent on road *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* construction in each of the last five years. [202233]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The available expenditure data on road expenditure covers both new construction and structural maintenance and does not enable new road construction to be identified as a separated category. The total expenditure on road infrastructure in Great Britain by central and local government for the last five years for which figures are available is given in the following table together with the figures for road maintenance.

Table: Investment in road infrastructure and maintenance

£ million

	Total investment in road infrastructure[1,2] *Great Britain*	*Total road maintenance*[3] *Great Britain*
2001-02	3,688	3,386
2002-03	3,955	3,729
2003-04	3,621	3,999
2004-05	4,126	4,221
2005-06	4,406	4,414

[1] Includes some private investment in road infrastructure, using private public finance contracts.
[2] These figures cover new construction, improvements and structural maintenance but exclude routine maintenance.
[3] Includes some structural maintenance.
Source:
Central and Local Government expenditure in England, Scotland and Wales

Road investment given in the aforementioned table relates to gross capital expenditure on national and local roads. This information is published in Table 1.14 in "Transport Statistics in Great Britain 2007 Edition" (TSGB) which is available on the Department for Transport's website (www.dft.gov.uk).

Information on expenditure on road maintenance for England and Wales is published in the "National Road Maintenance Condition Survey 2006", which is also available on the Department for Transport's website. Data for Scotland are published in "Scottish Transport Statistics 2007 Edition" by the Scottish Executive available on their website (www.scotland.gov.uk). These sources identify expenditure on structural and routine maintenance, but overlaps in definition mean that there is some double counting with the investment data from Table 1.14 from TSGB.

In 2006 there was an estimated 398 thousand kilometres of road in Great Britain. Central Government is responsible for the Strategic Road network made up of the Motorways and Trunk A Roads which is about 3 per cent. of this total. The remainder of the public road network is the responsibility of local authorities.

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to involve local authorities in her Department's plans for *(a)* a national road pricing scheme and *(b)* technology pilots for a national scheme. [199512]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No decisions have been taken on a national road pricing scheme. We are committed to examining the technology to see whether we can address people's real concerns about privacy and accuracy. We have invited the private sector to demonstrate how they might run a system of charging for road use according to time of day and route chosen. It is too early to say how local authorities might be involved.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of commercially available speed camera detection systems. [203232]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has not assessed the effectiveness of commercially available speed camera detection systems. However, the Road Safety

Act 2006 gives the Secretary of State the power to prohibit by regulations a vehicle being fitted with, or a person using a vehicle carrying speed assessment equipment detection devices. The Government have always made clear that they do not intend to prohibit the use of purely GPS-based devices which identify the location of cameras through publicly available information. They do however wish to prevent the carriage and use of devices which detect or interfere with the operation of speed measuring equipment through other means. The actual devices to be covered by the ban will be the subject of full public consultation before the associated secondary legislation is laid before Parliament.

Transport: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the per capita spending was from the public purse on *(a)* roads, *(b)* buses, *(c)* railways, *(d)* cycling, *(e)* walking and *(e)* air travel in each parliamentary constituency in the north-west in each year since 1997. [202730]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 April 2008]*: These data are not available centrally.

Spending for transport is financed by both central and local government. Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level. Spending by local authorities is collected by Communities and Local Government and relevant data can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfs/2007/.

Some figures on central Government spending (including grant to local authorities) are available for Government office regional level from the Country and Regional Analysis of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis carried out by the HM Treasury and can be found at:

http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spendingstatistics/pes_cra/country_region.cfm

Wheelchairs: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* slightly injured in accidents involving powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [202123]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 28 April 2008]*: The Department for Transport does not currently collect national data on the number of accidents involving powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

In 2006, the Department published research into the use of Class 2 and Class 3 mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. The research concluded that mobility scooters do not have a significant impact upon safety. However, as mobility scooter usage is likely to increase in the future, the Department is monitoring policy in this area.

HEALTH

Continuing Care: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received continuing care in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [201498]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of people who received continuing care in the Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) area in each of the last five years can be found in the following table.

Organisation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Central Suffolk PCT	No data	52	26	8	n/a
Ipswich PCT	No data	100	45	34	n/a
Suffolk Coastal PCT	No data	12	15	11	n/a
Suffolk PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	57
Suffolk West PCT	4	1	17	17	n/a

n/a = Not applicable

Notes:

1. In 2002-03 not all PCTs submitted data. These organisations have been marked as 'no data'.
2. The data are from a snapshot carried out in quarter 4 each year.
3. The data relate to organisations as they existed at the time of the collection. Suffolk Coastal PCT, Ipswich PCT, Central Suffolk PCT and Suffolk West PCT merged to form Suffolk PCT on 1 October 2006.

Source:

Department of Health form: local delivery plan return commissioner

Dental Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists have been issued with negative schedule letters as a result of negative schedule audits in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2006-07; how much dentists were required to pay to the NHS Business Services Authority's Dental Practice Division in each year; and if he will make a statement. [202098]

Ann Keen: Only dental providers hold contracts with the national health service. Many dentists are not contract holders themselves but work under contract to lead providers. Information on the number of dental providers who have individually received a letter in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is available but could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 200W, on departmental data protection, if he will include information assurance data on data loss incidents in previous years in his Department's next annual report. [199176]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179 and the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for storage and use of data.

The interim report of 17 December 2007 committed to put in place a programme to examine and improve data handling procedures. An update on this commitment will be included in the final report, expected spring 2008, and this report will detail the information to be included by Departments on data loss in their annual reports.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201760]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the Food Supplements Directive on the availability of high potency supplements in the UK. [202131]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Supplements Directive includes provisions for setting maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements. Proposals from the European Commission for setting levels are not expected until early 2009. No assessment has been made of the effects of the Food Supplements Directive on the availability of high potency supplements in the United Kingdom. However, the Food Standards Agency is currently developing an initial impact assessment with input from the UK food supplements industry to assess the effects of future proposals for setting maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements, including high potency supplements, under the Food Supplements Directive 2002/46/EC.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199189]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is the policy of the Department to provide all publications in electronic format at www.dh.gov.uk, or in the case of internal publications, the departmental intranet, Delphi. The only exception to this is the all-staff magazine, LINK, which is distributed monthly in hard copy via internal post.

For correspondence from members of the public, the answer is given electronically if received electronically and likewise given in hard copy if received that way. Currently, where hon. Members write to Ministers, even if electronically, the Department always responds with a hard copy.

Fluoxetine: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Suffolk have been prescribed fluoxetine in each of the last five years. [201495]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not collected centrally about the number of patients who are prescribed particular drugs. The following table shows the number of prescriptions dispensed for fluoxetine for the primary care trusts (PCTs) that cover Suffolk from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Number of prescriptions dispensed for fluoxetine in Suffolk

Financial year	*Number of items dispensed*
2003-04	65,945
2004-05	64,486
2005-06	66,258
2006-07	62,364
2007-08	53,688

Notes:

1. For the years 2003-04 to 2005-06, the figure for Suffolk is a combination of the figures for Central Suffolk PCT, Ipswich PCT, Suffolk Coastal PCT, Suffolk West PCT and Waveney PCT.
For the year 2006-07, where PCTs were reorganised in October 2006, the figure for Suffolk is a combination of the figures for the old PCTs listed above and the new Suffolk PCT. For the financial year 2007-08, the figure is for the new Suffolk PCT alone.
2. The figure for 2006-07 does not include prescribing in the area of the former Waveney PCT after October 2006, when the PCT joined the former Great Yarmouth Teaching PCT to become Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT.
3. The figure for 2007-08 includes prescribing for 11 months only (April 2007 to February 2008). Data for the remaining month are not yet available. This figure also excludes prescribing from the former Waveney PCT area, which now forms part of Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT.
4. The PACT system covers prescriptions by general practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the UK. For data at PCT level, prescriptions written by a prescriber located in a particular PCT but dispensed outside that PCT will be included in the PCT in which the prescriber is based. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals/clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data. It is important to note this as some British National Formulary (BNF) sections have a high proportion of prescriptions written in hospitals that are dispensed in the community. For example, BNF chapter 4, "Central Nervous System", has a proportion of items written in mental health clinics that are dispensed in the community—these prescriptions are not included in PACT data.

Source:

Information Centre for health and social care—Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT)

Folic Acid: Flour

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has received representations from low-volume millers on the application of mandatory fortification with folic acid of bread and flour; and if he will make a statement. [202431]

Dawn Primarolo: Prior to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Board's recommendation for mandatory fortification of flour or bread with folic acid in 2007, a full public consultation was held, enabling a broad range of views to be taken into account. Low volume millers responded to the consultation directly and were also represented via trade associations such as the National Association of British and Irish Millers (NABIM).

Before and following the consultation, FSA officials held regular meetings with NABIM to collect information and inform industry about latest developments in this area.

Food Standards Agency: Edelman

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the Food Standards Agency made to *(a)* Edelman and *(b)* Strategem in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202292]

Dawn Primarolo: The payments to 'Strategem' during the last five years are listed as follows:

Financial year	*Total for year (£)*	*Breakdown by Invoice (£)*	*Payment date*	*Description*
2007-08	15,128.80	240	14 April 2007	Public relations
		1,650	30 July 2007	Public relations
		1,650	13 August 2007	Public relations
		1,650	20 September 2007	Public relations
		1,650	8 October 2007	Public relations
		1,682	5 December 2007	Public relations
		1,650	2 January 2008	Public relations
		1,650	14 January 2008	Public relations
		1,656.8	18 February 2008	Public relations
		1,650	17 March 2008	Public relations
2006-07	2,629.55	2,629.55	12 March 2007	Public relations
2005-06	0	0	—	—
2004-05	0	0	—	—
2003-04	0	0	—	—

The payments to 'Daniel J. Edelman' are listed as follows:

Financial year	*Total for year (£)*	*Breakdown by Invoice (£)*	*Payment date*	*Description*
2007-08	3,000	3,000	30 July 2007	Research
2006-07	0	0	—	—
2005-06	23,966.50	2,500	22 September 2005	Research
		266.50	16 November 2005	Stakeholder relations
		10,600	21 November 2005	Stakeholder relations
		10,600	21 November 2005	Stakeholder relations
2004-05	0	0	—	—
2003-04	0	0	—	—

Hospitals: Construction

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many new hospitals were commissioned in each of the last five years; and how many of them were commissioned under the private finance initiative model; [202532]

(2) how many hospital extensions were commissioned in each of the last five years; and how many of them were commissioned under the private finance initiative model. [202533]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following tables give details of new hospital schemes (both private finance initiative (PFI) and public capital) which have reached financial close in each of the last five financial years (i.e. starting from 1 April 2003). Summarised descriptions are held centrally for each scheme and are provided, but these do not include details as to which included or comprised an extension to existing facilities.

We have interpreted "commissioned" as meaning when a scheme signs a contract and begins construction.

PFI schemes

NHS trust	*Scheme description*	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Financial close*	*Operational date[1]*
2003-04				
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys	New mental health unit at West Park	16	4 July 2003	13 December 2004
East Lancashire Hospitals	Closure of Blackburn Royal Infirmary and expansion of Queens Park Hospital	110	9 July 2003	8 July 2006

PFI schemes

NHS trust	*Scheme description*	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Financial close*	*Operational date*[1]
Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health	Elderly mental health services and mental health rehabilitation services	15	11 August 2003	6 June 2005
Derby Hospitals	Consolidation of acute services on Derby City General Hospital site enabling the development of a community facility on the Derby Royal Infirmary site	312	12 September 2003	Q2 2008
East Lancashire Hospitals	Burnley Phase V hospital development	30	13 October 2003	23 May 2006
North West London Hospitals	Modernisation of Central Middlesex Hospital	69	6 November 2003	19 March 2006
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals	Reprovision of specialist services from the Radcliffe Infirmary to a new build on the John Radcliffe Hospital site	134	19 December 2003	13 January 2007
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals	Rationalisation of two sites onto one adjacent to the existing Oldchurch Hospital in Romford	238	15 January 2004	6 December 2006
Newham University Hospital	Reprovision of Acute Services from St Andrews to Newham General Hospital	55	27 January 2004	8 July 2006
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership	Redevelopment of Mental Health facilities, community care services and crisis homes	83	1 March 2004	13 June 2006
Salisbury Health Care	DGH Redevelopment	24	4 March 2004	19 May 2006
Total		1,086		
2004-05				
Kirklees PCT	Provision of six new primary care centres	27	21 April 2004	14 November 2005
Wandsworth PCT	Redevelopment of Queen Mary's Roehampton including specialist rehabilitation and amputee services.	75	6 May 2004	10 March 2006
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	Reprovision of Mental Health services at St George's Hospital Morpeth	32	10 May 2004	15 May 2006
Buckinghamshire Hospitals	Partial redevelopment of Stoke Mandeville Hospital	47	21 May 2004	15 April 2006
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals	Relocation of Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children	36	10 June 2004	25 June 2007
The Lewisham Hospital	Redevelopment of University Hospital including the separation of elective and emergency procedures	72	08 July 2004	27 November 2006
Leeds Teaching Hospitals	Regional oncology and cancer centre at St James university hospital	265	15 October 2004	15 December 2007
Cambridge University Hospital	Elective Care Centre, Genetics and Diabetes at Addenbrooke	76	27 October 2004	18 May 2007
Hampshire PCT	Redevelopment of Lymington Hospital	36	18 November 2004	2 January 2007
Kingston Hospital	Redevelopment of Kingston Hospital	33	23 November 2004	3 July 2007
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospitals	Major work to provide three hospitals for women, children, adults and specialist eye hospital	512	14 December 2004	Q1 2009
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals	New Hadfield wing to replace Victorian Vickers wards	35	19 December 2004	21 April 2007
Nottinghamshire Healthcare	Elderly and Mental Health Units	19	23 December 2004	Q2 2008
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	Danetre Community Hospital in Daventry	28	3 March 2005	19 September 2006
Total		1,293		
2005-06				
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals	Reconfiguration of acute hospital services in Newcastle. Renal and Elderly services at Freeman Hospital. Relocation of Northern Centre for cancer to Freeman. Redevelopment of Royal Victoria Infirmary	299	27 April 2005	Q2 2008
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	Neuro Disability Centre	24	21 July 2005	23 April 2007

PFI schemes

NHS trust	*Scheme description*	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Financial close*	*Operational date*[1]
Sherwood Forest Hospitals	Rebuild and refurbishment of the King's Mill site and Mansfield Community Hospital	326	29 October 2005	Q1 2009
Portsmouth Hospitals	Relocation of acute services currently spread across three sites onto a single site (which will include a Ministry of Defence MDHU)	236	12 December 2005	Q2 2009
Oxford Radcliffe	Integrated cancer centre	129	13 December 2005	Q2 2008
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	Reconfiguration of cancer facilities	67	21 February 2006	Q2 2008
Ipswich Hospital	Garrett Anderson Treatment Centre	36	27 March 2006	Q2 2008
Total		1,117		
2006-07				
Barts and the London	Acute site rationalisation	1,000	27 April 2006	Q4 2013
St Helens Hospitals	Acute Hospital development	338	1 June 2006	Q4 2008
University Hospital Birmingham/Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health	Single site hospital to replace Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals and provide a new Mental Health Unit (Joint scheme with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health)	627	8 June 2006	Q1 2010
South West Essex Teaching PCT	Reprovision of Brentwood Community Hospital	30	29 June 2006	Q2 2008
Taunton and Somerset	Cancer Centre	21	28 February2007	Q1 2009
Total		2,016		
2007-08				
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	New South Holland Community Hospital	29	03 May 2007	Q2 2009
University Hospital of North Staffordshire/Stoke PCT	Major new build and reconfiguration at University Hospital site.	375	13 June 2007	Q4 2012
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals	Rationalisation from two main sites to one at Pinderfields Hospital. Small Unit at Pontefract.	353	22 June 2007	Q2 2010
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals	Reconfiguration of Acute Hospital services	336	29 June 2007	Q1 2012
North Middlesex University Hospital	Reconfiguration of Acute Hospital services	144	27 July 2007	Q2 2010
Salford Royal Hospitals	New build and refurbishment at Hope Hospital Salford	190	5 September 2007	Q1 2011
Tameside Hospital	Integration of services onto one site	109	13 September 2007	Q4 2010
South Essex Partnership	Medium and low security Mental Health unit on Runwell hospital site	32	5 October 2007	Q3 2009
Derbyshire Mental Health Services	Reprovision of mental health services	36	9 October 2007	Q2 2009
Northamptonshire Healthcare	Reprovision of Mental Health services onto single site at Pendereds Hospital	36	31 October 2007	Q1 2010
Walsall Hospitals	Improving Children's services and provision of primary care centres	169	3 November 2007	Q1 2010
Mid Essex Hospital Services	Relocation of Maternity Unit and modernisation of Acute Services including DTC in Chelmsford.	148	6 December 2007	Q32010
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys	Replacement of St Lukes hospital offering general and forensic mental health services.	75	12 December 2007	Q1 2010
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells	Modernisation and reconfiguration from four sites to two at Pembury and Maidstone	304	26 March 2008	Q42010
Total		2,336		

[1] Actual or expected

Public capital schemes

NHS trust	*Scheme description*	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Tender award date*	*Operational date*
2003-04				
Imperial College Healthcare	Renal centre	25	4 July 2003	December 2004
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital	Heart and lung centre	57	1 October 2003	1 September 2004
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre	Cardiac centre	45	1 October 2003	1 April 2006
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals	Essex heart and lung centre	59	1 November 2003	1 July 2007

Public capital schemes

NHS trust	*Scheme description*	*Capital value (£ million)*	*Tender award date*	*Operational date*
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals	New theatre and refurbishment of existing theatres	12	12 December 2003	31 March 2005
Southampton University Hospitals	Cardiac Centre	53	1 February 2004	31 July 2006
Total		251		
2004-05				
Plymouth Hospitals	South West Cardiothoracic Unit Centre	31	1 April 2004	1 February 2006
The Cardiothoracic Centre	Cardiac Centre in Liverpool	49	1 November 2004	1 March2006
Total		80		
2005-06				
West London Mental Health	Women's enhanced medium secure services	27	1 June 2005	30 June 2007
South London and Maudsley	New build forensic services (mental health) development at Bethlem Royal Hospital	25	12 September 2005	22 February 2008
Total		52		
2006-07				
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	Cardiac Centre	51	1 August 2006	Q3 2008
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children	Reprovision of hospital buildings	75	9 October 2006	Q32011
United Bristol Healthcare/North Bristol	Cardiothoracic Centre	64	16 October 2006	Q1 2009
University Hospital of North Staffordshire	Maternity and Oncology Unit	55	1 December 2006	Q1 2009
Total		245		
2007-08				
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals	Cardiac Centre	29	1 May 2007	Q1 2009
West Hertfordshire Hospitals	Acute Accident Unit	40	14 October 2007	Q2 2009
Total		69		

Meat Hygiene Service: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much public funding the Meat Hygiene Service has received in each of the last three years; and how much funding it is proposed to receive in 2008-09. [201172]

Dawn Primarolo: The actual net funding cost of the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS), after charges to industry and Government customers, for the last three financial years together with the provision for 2008-09 (before any exceptional restructuring costs) is listed as follows:

	Net operating costs (£ million)
2005-06	31.6
2006-07	33.3
2007-08	42.0
2008-09	32.0

The increased MHS net operating cost in 2007-08 resulted from an MHS Transformation Programme that will implement service delivery changes for all MHS customers. This transformation is continuing into 2008-09 and will reduce future costs. During 2007-08, exceptional transformation costs of £10.8 million were incurred mainly relating to redundancy and redeployment costs. In addition to the projected net operating cost of £32 million in 2008-09, we expect further exceptional transformation costs of up to £8 million.

Meat Hygiene Services: Veterinary Services

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what private companies provided official veterinary services to the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) in 2007-08; and what the cost to the MHS of the services of each such company was in that year. [200906]

Dawn Primarolo: The private companies who provided official veterinary services to the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) in 2007-08 are shown as follows:

Paragon Veterinary Group
Skeldale Veterinary Centre
John Highet Ltd.
Lanes Vet Group
Midforest Veterinary Practice
Oaksford and Birch
Lawrence VMH Ltd.
G and P. J. Nute
Crescent Veterinary Clinic
Old Court Veterinary Practice
Hook Norton Veterinary Surgeon
The Avenue Veterinary Centre
Quarry Veterinary Service
Michael Gratton

Mount Services Wellington Ltd.
Jeffrey Kidner
Acorn Vets Ltd.
Paws Veterinary Health Centre
E.L.L. Williams
F C I: Food Consultancy and Inspection
Bodrwnsiwn Veterinary Group
Bellevue Veterinary Group
The Crofts Veterinary Centre
Patrick A. Boyd
Southern Isles Veterinary Practice
Armac Veterinary Group
Onevet and Co.
Carrick Veterinary Centre
Hygiene Audit Ltd.
Malcolm J. Wheeler
Conanvet
McTaggart Veterinary Group
Miller and Swann Veterinary Surgeons
Strathspey Vets
Deveron Veterinary Surgeons
Hector A. Low
S. A. Goodall
Eyille and Jones Ltd.
Lerwick Veterinary Practice
Clyde Veterinary Group
County Veterinary Group
Fenton Veterinary Centre
Harbit and Ryder
Cranley John
Carmarthen Veterinary Centre Ltd.
VMHS Ltd.
Willows Veterinary Group
The Corporation of London
Perriferell Veterinary Services
Raoul Dowding Veterinary Surgeons
Scotvet OVS Services
STA Vets
ARO Co. Ltd.
AKER
Gordon Laboratory Group Ltd.
Hallmark Meat Hygiene Ltd.
Grants Veterinary Services Ltd.

The MHS is unable to disclose the cost of individual contracts because that information is commercially sensitive. The total cost to the MHS of contracting private companies to provide official veterinary services in 2007-08 was £20.9 million.

Medical Records: Databases

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how often data records registered on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) are updated. [200885]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data records held by the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (NHAIS) are updated electronically on each occasion whenever a business event occurs that requires data to be updated. Nationally, approximately 60,000 patient demographic changes including new registrations, amendments and deductions are made on the NHAIS patient database each working day. Examples include when a patient advises his or her general practitioner practice of a change of home address or change of name following marriage or divorce; or when the NHS Central Register advises NHAIS of the death of a patient following the death being formally recorded by a registrar of births, marriages and deaths.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* surveys and *(b)* consultations used contact details from the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08. [200886]

Mr. Bradshaw: Available information relates only to surveys that have been commissioned directly by the Department. Information is not held centrally about surveys or consultations by primary care trusts (PCTs) or national health service shared services agencies using locally held data.

Surveys conducted on that basis were:

the national PCT survey (2003-04 to 2007-08 inclusive);

the national patient experience survey (2006-07 and 2007-08);

the general practitioner patient survey (2006-07 and 2007-08);

Yorkshire and Humber adult dental survey (2007-08); and

no consultations were conducted on that basis in the years concerned.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how data are gathered by primary care trusts for inclusion on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) system. [200887]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are legally required to maintain a register of patients registered with a general practitioner's (GP's) practice according to the patient's registered address. This legal requirement for a register is met by the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (NHAIS) patient database.

Most GP practices have a computer system that is linked to local NHAIS systems. Each new patient registration, and all patient demographic changes, are recorded by practice staff, and these changes are notified electronically to the relevant local NHAIS system in order to maintain the patient registers. Non-computerised practices support the maintenance of the NHAIS systems by the provision of paper-based forms.

NHAIS systems also receive data about patient deaths, patients moving permanently to reside overseas, people moving into the armed services, and removals from the NHS Central Register which is operated by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Medical Treatments

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are taken to ensure that hospital consultants are aware of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence decisions on use of specific treatments in the consultants' area of specialism. [203174]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issues quick reference guides to national health service consultants in the relevant specialty, which summarise the conclusions in its guidance. NICE also provides a wide range of practical support through its web-based tools (for example audit criteria) aimed at aiding local implementation. Further information can be found on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/usingguidance/implementationtools/howtoguide/145how_to_guide.jsp

Medicine: Research

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been provided for research into *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* stroke and *(c)* dementia in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the medical and health research budget this represented in each year. [202151]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is shown in the following table.

£ million

	Department		Medical Research Council (MRC)		
	Coronary heart disease	Dementia	Cardiovascular research	Dementia	Stroke
2001-02	n/a	2.9	n/a	6.6	3.9
2002-03	56.2	1.6	n/a	6.6	4.9
2003-04	54.4	1.1	11.1	7.4	4.8
2004-05	60.6	19	9.7	6.2	3.1
2005-06	60.1	18.3	15.6	6	4.7

n/a = not available

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's research and development budget has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. These organisations have accounted for their use of the allocations received from the Department in an annual research and development report. From 2002-03, the reports have identified total, aggregated expenditure on a number of priority areas including coronary heart disease and, from 2004-05, dementia; but not stroke.

The Departmental figures for dementia for the years from 2001-02 to 2003-04 relate only to national research programme expenditure.

The MRC is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

In the absence of a complete set of expenditure data, a comparison with total research and development budgets has not been made.

NHS: Finance

John Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in the review by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation of the formula used for revenue allocations; and if he will make a statement. [203314]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation has completed its review of the weighted capitation formula used to inform revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs). Ministers are now considering these recommendations and we are planning to announce the outcome alongside allocations to PCTs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 in the summer.

Parkinson's Disease

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of training given to staff in residential care homes on dealing with residents with Parkinson's disease. [202452]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is the responsibility of social care service providers to ensure that their employees are suitably qualified and competent to carry out the duties they are employed to do.

Joint health and social care national occupational standards set out the skills, knowledge and values required and are used as benchmarks for national vocational qualifications (NVQs).

The knowledge set for NVQs is job specific and care home workers who are working with residents with Parkinson's, on a regular basis, should have a basic knowledge of the disease as part of their training.

Salt: Health Hazards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the scientific basis is for the Food Standards Agency's campaign to reduce hypertension by lowering salt intake; and how much the campaign has cost. [202441]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency's campaign to reduce salt intakes is based on advice from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) which is published in their report, Salt and Health (2003). Copies of this publication are available in the Library. SACN considered a wide range of evidence for the relationship between salt and hypertension and concluded that a reduction in the average population salt intake would proportionally lower population average blood pressure levels and confer significant public health benefits by contributing to a decrease in the burden of cardiovascular disease.

The total cost of the campaign (January 2004 to March 2008) has been £15,227,000. This includes all campaign costs such as advertising, production, research, marketing, public relations, web and partner grants.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the health effects of reducing salt intake for *(a)* those who take

strenuous exercise, *(b)* pregnant women and *(c)* the elderly; and if he will make a statement. [201863]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Diet and Nutrition Survey 2003 showed that the average intake of salt in the United Kingdom adult population was nine grams per day, more than twice the required daily intake of four grams per day for all adults, set by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy in 1991.

In 2003, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) published its report "Salt and Health", copies of this report are available in the Library. SACN recommended that the average daily intake of salt by all adults should be reduced to six grams per day. SACN found no evidence to suggest that such a reduction in salt intake would have adverse effects on any particular group in the population including pregnant women and the elderly or those who are exposed to conditions that cause extreme sweating.

Reducing average population salt intake would proportionally lower population average blood pressure levels and confer significant public health benefits by contributing to a reduction in the burden of cardiovascular disease.

Slaughterhouses: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which abattoirs *(a)* were prosecuted by and *(b)* received written warnings from the Food Standards Agency in each of the last three years. [201171]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has informed the Department that they prosecuted the following abattoirs in the last three years:

2005

2 Sisters Premier Division Limited;
Bradford Halal Meat Company;
Grove Smith (Turkeys) Limited;
Harvey Ashworth (Manchester) Limited;
J H Lambert (Bungay) Limited;
Kedassia Poultry Limited;
Muslim Halal Live Chicken and Poultry;
NJG Halal Slaughtering Limited;
Traditional Norfolk Poultry Limited; and
Yorkshire Poultry Products Limited.

2006

C E Partridge and Son Limited;
E and T Jackson and Sons;
Frank Bird (Poultry) Limited;
Harvey Ashworth (Manchester) Limited;
HCF Poultry Limited;
Leonard Ames (Ampthill) Limited;
Oakland Farms Limited;
Paul Flatman Limited;
Pembrokeshire Meat Company Limited;
Saleh Brothers (Poultry Processors) Limited;
Wakefield Halal Meats;
West Devon Meat Limited;
West Scottish Lamb Limited; and
Yorkshire Poultry Products Limited.

2007

2 Sisters Food Group Limited;
AS Audhali Farm Gate Fresh Poultry Limited;
Coast and County Meat Supply Company Limited;
Gafoor Poultry Products Limited;
Leicester Farm Fresh Turkeys;
Medina Meat and Poultry Group;
M Najib and Sons Limited;
P J King and Sons;
Spenborough Abattoir Limited;
St. Merryn Meat Limited;
Stockton Butchers Slaughtering Company Limited;
West Devon Meat Limited; and
Woolley Brothers (Wholesale Meats) Limited.

The FSA does not conduct its own prosecutions in Scotland. Cases referred by the FSA to the relevant Procurator Fiscal resulted in successful prosecutions against the following abattoirs:

2005

Wishaw Abattoir Limited

2006

John M Munro Limited;
Orkney Meat Limited; and
Wishaw Abattoir Limited.

2007

Mathers (Inverurie) Limited;
McIntosh Donald Limited; and
Scotch Premier Meat Limited.

Written warnings are used in an informal advisory way by the FSA and do not form part of the formal enforcement process. The aim when issuing a written warning is to provide the food business operator with clarification of the legal requirements or to encourage compliance. They are not a criminal sanction and are used as a routine part of the hierarchy of enforcement at approved meat plants. The Meat Hygiene Service, an Executive Agency of the FSA, issued the following number of written warnings in the course of the last three financial years:

	Number
2005-06	4,676
2006-07	6,637
2007-08	3,848

Slaughterhouses: Veterinary Services

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many licensed *(a)* abattoirs and *(b)* meat processing plants require official veterinary attendance. [200907]

Dawn Primarolo: Under European Union Food Hygiene Regulations which came into effect on 1 January 2006, veterinary attendance to carry out the

prescribed official controls is required in slaughterhouses, cutting plants and game handling establishments. Subject to certain exceptions, these plants are first required to be approved by the Food Standards Agency.

The number of those establishments in the United Kingdom at 31 March 2008 was as follows:

	Slaughterhouses		*Cutting plants*			
	Red meat	*Poultry*	*Red meat*	*Poultry*	*Combined red meat and poultry meat*	*Game handling establishment*
England	223	89	156	80	162	51
Scotland	37	4	38	0	18	22
Wales	25	5	6	4	22	4
Northern Ireland	13	6	26	6	2	0
United Kingdom Total	298	104	226	90	204	77

PRIME MINISTER

Conferences: Poverty

Bob Spink: To ask the Prime Minister who *(a)* was invited to and *(b)* attended the Promoting Prosperity: Progressive Governance Summit. [202089]

The Prime Minister: A list of attendees is a matter of public record and is available at: http://progov.pm.gov.uk/about/participants/ A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many people are employed by *(a)* the Press Office, *(b)* the Policy Unit, *(c)* the Speech Writing Unit, *(d)* the Research and Information Unit, *(e)* the Private Office, *(f)* the Strategic Communications Unit and *(g)* the Political Office in No. 10 Downing Street. [199060]

The Prime Minister: The total number of staff on the No. 10 payroll as at 1 April 2008 is set out in the following table.

	Number at 1 April 2008
Prime Minister's Office	189
Of which:	
Private Office	[1]13
No. 10 Policy Unit	15
Press Officers	[2]7
Strategic Communications Unit	[3]8
Research and Information	5

[1] This figure includes those responsible for co-ordinating speech writing.
[2] This figure includes one secondee from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
[3] This includes one unpaid adviser.

The staffing and associated costs for my Political Office are met by the Labour party. As has been the case under successive Administrations, marginal costs associated with the Political Office are met from within the overall budget for 10 Downing street.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (HL) 2007-08

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter he sent to hon. Members about the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill; who drafted the letter; whom he consulted before issuing the letter; what responses he has received from hon. Members; if he will place in the Library copies of those responses; and if he will make a statement. [198727]

The Prime Minister: My letter was sent to all Labour Members of Parliament and is available in the public domain.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Cycling

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department provides *(a)* tax-free benefits and *(b)* other allowances for their staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [198768]

Mr. Woodward: Currently there is no provision in respect of tax free benefits to purchase a bicycle under the cycle to work scheme. It is anticipated that this facility will be made available later this year when the Department has fully implemented a new HR and pay system. In the meantime the Department has made available an advance of salary to a maximum of £400 should staff wish to purchase a bicycle and associated safety equipment.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months; [198932]

(2) how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198976]

Mr. Woodward: Information on stress is not captured as a defined absence category nor in the format requested; the only figures available capture many other conditions that may not be associated directly with stress. Therefore we are unable to provide the information regarding stress-related illness due to disproportionate cost.

The health and safety of everyone in the Department is of paramount importance; we have a duty of care to help prevent staff becoming ill and to support them when they are. The Northern Ireland Office already has a series of effective policies and procedures in place which help achieve these aims. These include a welfare service and an independent confidential counselling service that is available 24 hours a day.

Inquiries

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many documents have been passed by *(a)* the Royal Ulster Constabulary and *(b)* the army to official inquiries into their respective operations in Northern Ireland in the last 28 years. [197276]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows:

(a) The PSNI has advised that this information is not recorded centrally, and to provide the answer would incur disproportionate cost.

(b) The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has provided the following answer:

"The MOD has provided a total of approximately 3,500 MOD/Army papers to the Bloody Sunday inquiry, Billy Wright inquiry and the Rosemary Nelson inquiry".

Police: Riot Control Weapons

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Taser guns have been purchased by the police in Northern Ireland; and whether there have been any instances of their use. [202206]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has advised that the Police Service of Northern Ireland is piloting the use of taser and has purchased 18 taser units, six for training purposes and 12 for operational deployment by officers from the Specialist Operations Branch in pre-planned operations. To date taser has not been drawn or fired in operational use.

Public Inquiries

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of *(a)* each public inquiry under way in Northern Ireland and *(b)* each Historic Enquiries Team investigation has been in each year since 1998. [203226]

Mr. Woodward: The costs to the end of March 2008 for each public inquiry under way in Northern Ireland are:

Inquiry	*Cost (£ million)*
The Bloody Sunday Inquiry	182.4
The Robert Hamill Inquiry	14.49
The Rosemary Nelson Inquiry	24.78
The Billy Wright Inquiry	21.12

The Wright and Hamill Inquiries are operating under the Inquiries Act 2005. The Nelson Inquiry is operating under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998. The Bloody Sunday Inquiry is operating under the Tribunals Act 1921.

For the Wright and Hamill Inquiries, the Secretary of State has issued a formal notice under section 40(4) of the Inquiries Act 2005, requiring them to operate within limits for fees and hours worked per week. The Inquiries Act also places a statutory duty on the inquiry chairmen to have regard to the need to avoid unnecessary cost in every decision they make. The Nelson Inquiry, which is not operating under the Inquiries Act, has also been formally instructed to keep within limits.

I cannot provide the cost of each individual HET investigation. I can confirm that the annual expenditure on HET investigations has been as follows:

	Annual expenditure on HET investigation (£ million)
2005-06	4.32
2006-07	6.04
2007-08	7.69

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Storms

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance is being provided to the remaining victims of Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh. [202573]

Mr. Malik: The total UK Government assistance to Cyclone Sidr for immediate and early recovery in Bangladesh is just over £15 million. This includes on-going support to the Cyclone victims with water supply and sanitation, livelihood regeneration, and housing. This also includes our most recent contribution of £5 million towards the comprehensive Early Recovery Action Plan programme, to be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Bangladesh Government over the next eight to 12 months. This programme will provide housing for 20,000 families, and livelihood regeneration for 180,000 people, as well as infrastructure rehabilitation, in the worst affected villages.

For the longer term, the Government of Bangladesh have prepared a Comprehensive Damage and Needs Assessment, in close consultation and support with donors, which will set out the long-term proposals for the disaster risk fund: Risk mitigation (riverbank protection, coastal embankments, road upgrades), and disaster preparedness (cyclone shelters, early warning systems).

Developing Countries: Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response he has made to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund assessment that food insecurity could lead to mass starvation and civil unrest amongst many of the world's poorest peoples. [202496]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) on 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 285.

Malawi: HIV Infection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to combat HIV/AIDS in *(a)* Malawi and *(b)* Thailand. [201941]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £2 million a year to the National AIDS Commission (NAC) which is responsible for leading the response to HIV and AIDS in Malawi, helping people protect themselves from HIV, and supporting orphans and those living with HIV. In parallel, DFID's £100 million grant to the health sector to deliver the Essential Health Package (EHP) includes support for the prevention and management of HIV and AIDS including HIV Testing and Counselling, access to Anti-Retroviral Therapy and other HIV related services. The Global Fund for HIV TB and Malaria has provided over $145 million in Malawi

(b) There is no UK bilateral programme for Thailand. Thailand does benefit from DFID's current overall support to the Global Fund for HIV, TB and Malaria which has provided over $122 million in Thailand towards HIV programmes in the last four years.

Pakistan: Females

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government is taking to encourage the involvement of women at all levels in the democratic process in Pakistan. [201619]

Mr. Malik: Since 2002 Pakistan has made progress on strengthening the role of women in the democratic process. Most notably this has been through the reservation of 60 seats in the National Assembly and a third of all directly elected seats in local government for women. The Department for International Development (DFID) has supported these reforms through nearly £1 million of assistance to civil society to work with political representatives at all levels. We have also contributed £6 million to the United Nations Development Programme in support of women's empowerment, including the establishment a women's political school that has trained over 20,000 female Councillors. In addition, we have provided extensive support for training and promoting voter awareness during the recent elections. This targeted over 170,000 potential women voters and 5,000 female domestic election observers as part of a £3 million support package.

Rwanda: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to assist sustainable development in Rwanda. [200975]

Gillian Merron: Over the last 10 years, the UK has provided £380 million of development assistance to support poverty reduction and the recovery of Rwanda from the legacy of the 1994 genocide. This year, the Department for International Development (DFID) expects to provide £46 million, of which £33 million will be direct budget support to the government directly supporting their sustainable development goals. We have also signed a new health sector budget support agreement worth £12 million over five years to improve maternal and child health outcomes. A further £7.5 million for the period from 2008-12 will support the One UN pilot in Rwanda, designed to improve the delivery effectiveness of the UN, which is focused on sustainable development.

DFID has also provided significant technical support to the Government of Rwanda in developing its new Poverty Reduction Strategy, known as the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), which was launched in 2007. DFID's future programme in Rwanda, which will expand by 16 per cent. over the next three years, will focus on building capacity for the implementation of the new strategy.

Sudan: Food Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the safety of those delivering World Food Programme supplies in Southern Sudan. [201407]

Gillian Merron: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 445W. Since then, hijackings of World Food Programme (WFP) trucks have continued. As of last week, 60 trucks had been hijacked, 39 drivers had been reported missing and 26 remain unaccounted for. As a result of the continuing violence, WFP announced on 17 April that it would reduce rations of cereals, pulses and sugar by half in May. The international community has consistently called on all parties to respect the neutrality of humanitarian agencies. In addition, we continue to press for the full and rapid deployment of the UN-AU peacekeeping force (UNAMID) in Darfur.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2564W, on Admiralty House, what guidance his Department issues on the liability of occupiers of official ministerial residences for the cost of cleaning on vacation of the property. [199102]

Mr. Watson: Departures from Admiralty House are dealt with on a case by case basis.

Buildings: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what minor works have been undertaken in Downing street *(a)* offices and *(b)* ministerial residences since the Prime Minister took office. [202819]

Mr. Watson: Information on refurbishment, maintenance and structural improvements to the Downing street complex will only be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information Departments are required to hold on whether their employees are married to other employees. [202648]

Mr. Watson: Departments are not required to hold such information.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200749]

Mr. Watson: Any increase in the employee pension contribution would be met by the employee, and not by the Department.

TREASURY

Banks

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the board members of the Financial Services Authority in undertaking regulation of the banking sector. [202698]

Angela Eagle: The regulation of the banking sector is ultimately a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The FSA is independent from the Government although subject to the provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA).

Child Trust Fund: Credit Unions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provisions apply to the utilisation of child trust funds by parents through credit unions in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [203229]

Angela Eagle: The rules by which credit unions must abide to be a child trust fund provider are set out in the Child Trust Fund Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/1450) as amended. These rules apply across the whole of the UK.

Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Implementation Project

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assistance the Office of Government Commerce provided to, and what contact it has had with *(a)* the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, *(b)* the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel and *(c)* the Valuation and Lands Agency in relation to the gateway review for the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Implementation Project. [203123]

Angela Eagle: The Office of Government Commerce has not provided any assistance to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency or the Valuation and Lands Agency. Since 2006, however, the Office of Government Commerce has arranged several OGC Gateway™ reviews for the Department of Finance and Personnel on a number of their projects.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187547]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury and Valuation Office Agency's accounting systems do not hold data on reimbursable expenses by grade and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For information on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs I refer to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1055-56W.

The Government Actuary's Department does not employ any members of the senior civil service and the Royal Mint made no such payments in 2006-07. The following payments were made in 2006-07: Debt Management Office £1,000; National Savings and Investments £15,000; and OGCbuying.solutions £15,000.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199184]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's correspondence handling system electronically records and monitors the majority of correspondence received.

All Treasury publications are placed on the Treasury's website thereby reducing, where possible, the need for printed copies.

Employment: EU Nationals

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the average duration of employment of EU A8 nationals working in the UK since 2004. [177481]

Angela Eagle: None.

Endowment Mortgages

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Treasury has investigated the role played by the Financial Services Authority in the regulation of the sale of endowment mortgages. [200190]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has not investigated the role of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in the mis-selling of endowment mortgages.

The FSA has invested in supervisory work to ensure firms handle mortgage endowment complaints in a fair and timely way, including formal enforcement action and fines against some ten major firms for mis-selling mortgage endowments and/or mishandling complaints about them.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2212W, on motor vehicles: petrol alternatives, what the differentials in fuel duty are for *(a)* petrol, *(b)* diesel, *(c)* natural gas/biogas, *(d)* hydrogen and *(e)* bioethanol; and what changes are planned in these rates for the future. [203168]

Angela Eagle: Duty rates are available from HMRC's website at: www.hmrc.gov.uk The current rates are 50.35p per litre for petrol and diesel; 13.70p per kilogram (the equivalent of 9.47p per litre) for natural gas, including biogas and hydrogen used in an internal combustion engine; and 30.35p per litre for bioethanol.

Budget 2008 announced that the duty differential for natural gas would remain at its equivalent level until 2010, the duty differential for biogas would remain at its current level at least until Budget 2012, and the duty differential for biofuels would cease from 2010, with future support for biofuels being provided under the renewable transport fuel obligation.

Excise Duties: Motorcycles

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors are considered when determining the level of road tax applicable to 125cc motorbikes; and if he will make a statement. [202997]

Angela Eagle: Vehicle Excise Duty for motorbikes is banded under four engine capacity based rates with the lowest rate of £15 applying to bikes with engines not over 150cc capacity.

In taking taxation decisions as part of the Budget process the Government considers a range of factors including relevant environmental, social and economic factors.

Population: Bridgend

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of migration on population density in Bridgend constituency over the next 10 years. [202106]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

Population density in Bridgend rose steadily from 1995 to 2006 as set out in the Chancellor's answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2190W and a net inflow of migration has contributed to this. Population projections within Wales, including the analysis of migration trends are a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government but migration patterns are difficult to predict.

Private Finance Initiative

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps his Department has taken to monitor the effect of its private finance initiative policies on *(a)* value for money and *(b)* staff terms and conditions; and what assessment he has made of the effect of private finance initiative projects on staff terms and conditions; [203311]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures introduced in 2004 to protect the workforce in private finance initiative projects. [203312]

Angela Eagle: The 2006 PFI Value for Money Assessment guidance[1] sets out the robust qualitative and quantitative assessment that needs to be undertaken to determine if PFI is a suitable procurement method. In assessing value for money in PFI, all procuring authorities should ensure PFI is used only where it is value for money and is not at the expense of employee terms and conditions. This was reiterated in HMT's recent policy document "Infrastructure procurement: delivering long-term value"[2], which also states that, working with key stakeholders, Government will continue to monitor the impact on staff.

[1] HMT Guidance on how to assess if a project would deliver value for money under PFI, updated November 2006, available on the HMT website.

[2] Published alongside the Budget Document in March 2008.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the remit of the Audit Commission to central government spending. [203119]

Yvette Cooper: The Comptroller and Auditor General (C and AG) is responsible for audit in central government. The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Public Accounts Commission for improving the accountability and governance of the National Audit Office, which supports the C and AG.

Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff are employed *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in Northern Ireland. [203228]

Jane Kennedy: The number of full and part-time staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland at 1 April 2008 are as follows:

(a) 1,789: full-time

(b) 575: part-time

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when the scheme for stamp duty tax relief on new zero-carbon homes will expire; [203112]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* houses and *(b)* flats which will attract the stamp duty tax relief on new zero carbon homes during the scheme's duration. [203113]

Angela Eagle: We expect the numbers of qualifying transactions for both houses and flats to be initially low but to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief go on the market. For example, in December 2007 the Government announced details of 200 new homes to be built to a zero-carbon standard in Hanham Hall, near Bristol. The media release can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/611694

The stamp duty land tax relief for new zero carbon homes is time limited for five years until 30 September 2012 but before the end of the time limit the Government will review the effectiveness of the relief and consider the case for an extension.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2184, on air passenger duty, what representations his Department has received from overseas governments on the legality of the proposed aviation duty. [203020]

Angela Eagle: The consultation on the proposed aviation duty closed on 24 April 2008. This consultation considered all aspects of the duty, including basis and scope of the duty, possible exemptions, impact of the inclusion of freight and transit/transfer traffic and the operation of the duty.

A summary of responses will be published in due course.

Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints about tax credits HM Revenue and Customs received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public by (i) telephone, (ii) letter and (iii) e-mail in each month since April 2003; [194467]

(2) how many *(a)* letters, *(b)* e-mails and *(c)* telephone calls on tax credits have been received by (i) his Department, (ii) HM Revenue and Customs and (iii) the Tax Credit Office from (A) hon. Members and (B) members of the public in each quarter since April 2003. [194469]

Jane Kennedy: Overall, the Tax Credit Office (TCO) post room handles around 3.5 to 4 million items of post each year. Quarterly information for the years for which the information is available is shown in the following table.

Items of post received in Tax Credit Office

Quarter ending	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
June	1,119,000	917,500	998,000	807,500
September	1,210,500	1,069,000	1,173,500	1,211,000
December	948,500	936,000	984,500	793,000
March	924,500	908,000	898,000	[1]637,500

[1] Final quarter to 18 March 2008.

Information separately identifying the number of items of post received from hon. Members and members of the public is not available.

HMRC does not separately record if complaints are made by letter, in a phone call or by way of an e-mail. For details of the number of people who sent complaints to TCO up to 31 December 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 374-75W.

2008	Number of complainants (approximate)
January	3,250
February	3,200

Information about the number of complaints sent by right hon. Members and hon. Members in each quarter is shown in the following table.

MP complaints addressed to Tax Credit Office (approximate)

Quarter ending	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
June	800	1,900	1,900	1,650
September	1,250	2,550	2,100	1,500
December	2,250	2,700	2,150	1,650
March	2,900	2,500	2,000	[1]850

[1] Final quarter only to 29 February 2008.

For the number of calls answered each month by the TCO MP hotline up to and including May 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer that the then Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo) gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 419W. The information requested for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is provided in the following table.

	Received	Handled	Abandoned
2006-07	17,776	17,360	416
2007-08[1]	12,654	12,452	202

[1] To end of February 2008.

New telephony equipment was introduced to the hon. Members' hotline in October 2005 so the first full year in which information about the number of calls that were abandoned before being answered by an adviser is 2006-07.

With regard to the number of calls received on the Tax Credits helpline, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (194486), which shows that monthly figures, to April 2007, have previously been provided. The following table shows this information for those quarters where the full information has not previously been provided.

Quarter ending	Calls received (Thousand)
June 2007	7,080
September 2007	7,303
December 2007	4,305

TCO does not record separately the number of calls it receives from its customers.

The other information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

HM Treasury does not routinely record statistical information on the number of letters, calls or e-mails it receives about tax credits.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls were *(a)* received, *(b)* handled and *(c)* unanswered by (i) the claimants' and (ii) hon. Members' tax credit hotline in each year since 2003. [194486]

Jane Kennedy: With regard to (i) the tax credits helpline, I would refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided by the then Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo):

12 September 2005, *Official Report*, column 2407W,

14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2137W,

5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 188W,

20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 187W,

25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 418W and 419W,

31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W,

where elements of the requested information have been provided giving details of calls received, handled, busy/engaged and abandoned for each year to 31 March 2007. The full year figures to 31 March 2008 are not yet available.

On (ii) calls to the hon. Members' hotline, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (194467 and 194469).

Welfare Tax Credits: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Warrington are in receipt of each category of tax credit. [203169]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC do not produce statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit, however estimates of the number of families with tax credits in 2005-06 in each local authority, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2005-06 Geographical Analysis". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The information on the number of out-of-work families includes those who are receiving child support through income support and jobseeker's allowance.

The same information for 2006-07 is due to be published on 20 May 2008.

Wine: Prices

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis was for his statement on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 298, that the average bottle of wine costs £4.00. [202761]

Angela Eagle: This figure has been calculated for a 75cl bottle of wine from market data for the off trade.

JUSTICE

Compensation: Industrial Diseases

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer by the Prime Minister of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 276, on compensation for those with pleural plaque, when he expects the consultation to be launched. [202715]

Bridget Prentice: The House of Lords judgment on pleural plaques raises very complex issues. We are currently giving serious consideration to all the representations which have been made to us, and are actively exploring how people who have pleural plaques as a result of exposure to asbestos might be supported. We will set out our views as soon as we have analysed all the options.

Custodial Treatment: Young People

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much and what proportion of the Youth Justice Board's budget was spent on *(a)* purchasing remand and custodial places for offenders, *(b)* grants to local authorities and other bodies to support the development of effective practice and *(c)* commissioning research and publishing information in each year since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [199961]

Mr. Hanson: Since it was established in 1998 the total YJB budget of £2,939 million has been spent as follows:

(a) £1,992 million (68 per cent.) on purchasing remand and custodial places for offenders;

(b) £930 million (31 per cent.) on grants to local authorities and other bodies to support the development of effective practice;

(c) £17 million (1 per cent.) on commissioning research and publishing information.

A breakdown of this information is detailed in the following table.

YJB operating expenditure

£ million

	Purchasing remand and custodial places	*Grants to local authorities and other bodies*	*Commissioning research*	*Total*
1999-2000	—	29	1	30
2000-01	188	45	2	235
2001-02	208	77	2	287
2002-03	231	118	2	351
2003-04	245	112	2	359
2004-05	249	123	2	374
2005-06	285	128	2	415
2006-07	283	143	2	428
2007-08	303	155	2	460
Total	1,992	930	17	2,939
Total (percentage)	67.8	31.6	0.6	100

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 187W, on departmental ICT, how many of the missing or stolen *(a)* laptops and *(b)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by his Department; and at what cost. [202506]

Mr. Wills: The Department does not keep a central record of laptops that have been replaced since 2001. As the losses were incurred from different areas across the Department, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. When items are replaced, they are drawn either from the existing resource pool or new purchases are made through the IT suppliers' contracts.

Available records show that the personal digital assistant reported lost in 2003 was replaced at a cost of approximately £250.00.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201755]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is in the following tables. It includes questions tabled for answer between 6 November 2007 and 4 April 2008.

Ordinary written questions

MP	*Total number of questions tabled*	*Average time in sitting days for answer*
Diane Abbott	2	4.5
Adam Afriyie	4	4.0
Peter Ainsworth	1	5.0
Danny Alexander	4	4.25
David Amess	27	4.63
David Anderson	3	5.40
Janet Anderson	1	3.0
Norman Baker	9	7.67
Tony Baldry	2	4.5
Gordon Banks	1	4.0
Hugh Bayley	4	4.75
Alan Beith	1	24.0
Henry Bellingham	72	4.64
Roger Berry	1	5.0
Peter Bone	1	4.0
Tom Brake	9	5.78
Julian Brazier	1	4.0
James Brokenshire	18	4.44
Jeremy Browne	12	10.42
Malcolm Bruce	2	7.0
Simon Burns	2	2.5
David Burrowes	13	4.92
Paul Burstow	2	7.0
Lorely Burt	1	4.0
Vincent Cable	3	23.33
Ronnie Campbell	7	3.14
Alistair Carmichael	1	6.0

Ordinary written questions

MP	*Total number of questions tabled*	*Average time in sitting days for answer*
James Clappison	8	3.88
Nick Clegg	1	4.0
Harry Cohen	3	3.33
Jim Cousins	4	9.25
Mary Creagh	1	5.0
John Cummings	4	5.25
Claire Curtis-Thomas	1	4.0
Dai Davies	2	5.0
David Davies	8	4.25
Philip Davies	33	3.82
David Davis	22	[1]8.18
Andrew Dismore	1	4.0
Jonathan Djanogly	3	7.0
Jim Dowd	1	16.0
David Drew	21	7.0
Alan Duncan	1	4.0
Philip Dunne	7	3.29
Jeff Ennis	2	5.0
Bill Etherington	1	8.0
Nigel Evans	1	13.0
David Evennett	4	6.0
Tim Farron	1	4.0
Lynne Featherstone	8	5.13
Frank Field	2	4.0
Don Foster	2	4.0
Liam Fox	2	4.5
Roger Gale	2	6.0
Edward Garnier	67	5.25
David Gauke	5	5.8
Neil Gerrard	11	7.27
Cheryl Gillan	24	5.08
Linda Gilroy	1	2.0
Julia Goldsworthy	3	19.0
Paul Goodman	2	4.5
James Gray	8	6.13
Damian Green	7	6.14
Dominic Grieve	9	4.33
Nia Griffith	9	3.78
John Gummer	9	6.89
Andrew Gwynne	2	4.5
William Hague	2	3.0
Fabian Hamilton	2	3.5
Philip Hammond	16	12.44
Mike Hancock	8	3.5
Greg Hands	2	4.5
Mark Harper	4	5.25
John Hayes	17	9.29
David Heath	19	7.63
John Hemming	3	3.33
Stephen Hepburn	1	5.0
Nick Herbert	41	4.93
Lady Hermon	18	5.89
Mark Hoban	65	7.4
Philip Hollobone	2	5.0
Kelvin Hopkins	1	1.0
Martin Horwood	1	3.0
Stewart Hosie	1	5.0
David Howarth	1	1.0
Lindsay Hoyle	6	5.5

MP	Ordinary written questions: Total number of questions tabled	Ordinary written questions: Average time in sitting days for answer
Chris Huhne	9	7.56
Joan Humble	1	4.0
Mark Hunter	1	3.0
Nick Hurd	25	2.96
Adam Ingram	1	4.0
Stewart Jackson	7	4.29
Sian James	1	3.0
Brian Jenkins	11	6.73
Boris Johnson	9	4.0
David Jones	1	8.0
Kevan Jones	1	4.0
Lynne Jones	7	4.0
Sir Gerald Kaufman	4	4.75
Daniel Kawczynski	1	13.0
Sally Keeble	3	5.0
Fraser Kemp	5	5.8
Robert Key	1	2.0
David Kidney	14	4.14
Susan Kramer	4	6.0
Ashok Kumar	13	6.0
Norman Lamb	2	4.0
Mark Lancaster	3	4.0
Andrew Lansley	2	6.5
David Laws	6	[1]2.66
Oliver Letwin	1	19.0
Tom Levitt	2	5.0
Ian Liddell-Grainger	1	6.0
Elfyn Llwyd	28	4.46
Tim Loughton	4	2.25
Ian Lucas	2	5.0
Denis MacShane	3	4.67
Fiona Mactaggart	5	3.8
Anne Main	6	4.17
Humfrey Malins	29	4.24
John Mann	3	5.0
Francis Maude	20	6.05
Theresa May	11	8.55
John McDonnell	33	5.91
Anne McIntosh	2	6.0
Shona McIsaac	1	1.0
Alan Meale	1	4.0
Patrick Mercer	7	4.29
Anne Milton	6	5.67
Austin Mitchell	8	5.75
Madeleine Moon	2	5.0
Michael Moore	1	7.0
Margaret Moran	14	4.79
Jessica Morden	1	4.0
Julie Morgan	2	5.5
Elliot Morley	1	2.0
Greg Mulholland	3	5.67
Chris Mullin	2	3.5
Denis Murphy	7	6.0
Andrew Murrison	8	5.0
Robert Neill	20	4.8
Brooks Newmark	3	4.0
Stephen O'Brien	2	6.5
George Osborne	3	3.67
James Paice	4	3.75
Owen Paterson	5	4.0
Mike Penning	2	7.5
Eric Pickles	31	2.61
Greg Pope	2	4.0
Gordon Prentice	4	5.0
Adam Price	2	4.0
John Randall	1	5.0
John Redwood	1	4.0
Jamie Reed	1	1.0
Linda Riordan	1	4.0
Angus Robertson	1	6.0
Iris Robinson	1	5.0
Dan Rogerson	9	5.0
Andrew Rosindell	29	3.55
David Ruffley	22	6.23
Bob Russell	5	4.0
Andrew Selous	2	4.0
Virenda Sharma	3	4.67
Barry Sheerman	1	3.0
Richard Shepherd	3	5.0
David Simpson	11	7.45
Keith Simpson	1	5.0
Geraldine Smith	1	5.0
Peter Soulsby	1	5.0
John Spellar	8	6.13
Michael Spicer	1	3.0
Bob Spink	14	10.64
Richard Spring	5	5.2
Anthony Steen	1	32.0
Howard Stoate	3	4.0
Andrew Stunell	1	9.0
Jo Swinson	2	3.0
Hugo Swire	3	4.67
Dari Taylor	2	7.0
David Taylor	2	8.5
Matthew Taylor	1	5.0
Sarah Teather	8	6.5
Mark Todd	5	4.6
Jon Trickett	3	3.0
Andrew Tyrie	8	4.0
Ed Vaizey	1	5.0
Shailesh Vara	7	7.43
Keith Vaz	7	6.86
Theresa Villiers	6	6.5
Rudi Vis	33	5.61
Charles Walker	5	6.6
Michael Weir	6	8.83
Bill Wiggin	2	10.0
Roger Williams	4	[1]8.75
Phil Willis	1	8.0
Jenny Willott	74	[1]5.19
David Wilshire	2	4.0
Pete Wishart	2	5.5
Mike Wood	10	4.5
David Wright	1	5.0
Tony Wright	1	5.0
Richard Younger-Ross	2	4.0
Total	1,468	5.60

Named day questions

MP	Total number of questions tabled	Average time in sitting days for answer
Danny Alexander	1	4.0
Graham Allen	1	1.0
James Arbuthnot	3	2.67
Gordon Banks	5	1.0
Celia Barlow	1	1.0
John Baron	6	1.0
Hugh Bayley	1	1.0
Tim Boswell	1	1.0
James Brokenshire	4	1.0
Annette Brooke	2	1.0
Jeremy Browne	2	1.0
Angela Browning	4	1.75
Colin Burgon	4	1.0
Simon Burns	12	2.0
David Burrowes	20	1.1
Paul Burstow	1	3.0
Dawn Butler	1	1.0
Stephen Byers	2	2.0
Gregory Campbell	1	1.0
Jeremy Corbyn	2	1.0
Patrick Cormack	1	2.0
Jim Cousins	1	2.0
Stephen Crabb	3	1.0
Jim Cunningham	15	1.13
David Davies	1	1.0
David Davis	5	5.8
Jim Devine	1	1.0
David Drew	2	1.5
Jonathan Djanogly	8	1.0
Iain Duncan-Smith	1	4.0
Louise Ellman	4	2.0
Tobias Ellwood	1	1.0
Jeff Ennis	1	1.0
Nigel Evans	25	3.28
Tim Farron	1	1.0
Lynne Featherstone	1	1.0
Frank Field	4	3.0
Don Foster	1	7.0
Christopher Fraser	1	1.0
Roger Gale	3	1.33
Edward Garnier	25	3.88
Andrew George	5	1.0
Neil Gerrard	5	1.4
Cheryl Gillan	15	1.0
Paul Goodman	1	3.0
Robert Goodwill	2	3.5
Justine Greening	1	1.0
Andrew Gwynne	1	1.0
Stephen Hammond	1	1.0
Mike Hancock	1	1.0
Mark Harper	2	1.0
Evan Harris	1	1.0
John Hayes	1	14.0
David Heath	7	4.71
John Hemming	1	1.0
Nick Herbert	55	2.53
Philip Hollobone	3	1.0
Martin Horwood	1	1.0
David Howarth	3	1.0
Chris Huhne	9	8.33
Brian Iddon	1	1.0
Adam Ingram	6	1.33
Michael Jack	1	1.0
Stewart Jackson	19	1.05
Helen Jones	4	2.25
Kevan Jones	1	1.0
Eric Joyce	1	1.0
Sally Keeble	2	2.0
David Kidney	2	1.0
Greg Knight	3	1.0
Susan Kramer	3	1.0
Tony Lloyd	1	1.0
Elfyn Llwyd	9	1.33
Tim Loughton	1	6.0
Ian Lucas	1	4.0
Andrew Mackinlay	3	1.0
Angus MacNeil	1	3.0
Humfrey Malins	5	1.4
John Mann	1	1.0
Rob Marris	3	1.0
Chris McCafferty	1	1.0
Sarah McCarthy-Fry	1	1.0
John McDonnell	7	1.71
Jim McGovern	1	45.0
Anne McIntosh	1	1.0
Shona McIsaac	1	1.0
Chris Mole	1	1.0
Greg Mulholland	6	2.67
Mark Oaten	4	3.75
Richard Ottaway	1	1.0
Stephen Pound	1	1.0
Adam Price	2	1.0
John Robertson	2	1.0
Dan Rogerson	3	1.67
Paul Rowan	1	1.0
Chris Ruane	3	1.0
Bob Russell	11	1.0
Adrian Sanders	1	1.0
Andrew Selous	3	1.33
Sion Simon	1	1.0
Marsha Singh	1	1.0
Angela C. Smith	1	1.0
Geraldine Smith	2	1.0
Nicholas Soames	1	1.0
Helen Southworth	1	1.0
Michael Spicer	1	2.0
Bob Spink	4	1.0
Anthony Steen	3	1.0
Gary Streeter	2	1.0
Graham Stringer	2	1.0
Desmond Swayne	1	1.0
Jo Swinson	1	1.0
David Taylor	4	9.0
Paddy Tipping	1	1.0
Andrew Turner	2	1.0
Andrew Tyrie	1	14.0
Rudi Vis	1	1.0
Steve Webb	2	1.5
Hywel Williams	5	1.4

Named day questions

MP	*Total number of questions tabled*	*Average time in sitting days for answer*
Phil Willis	1	1.0
Jenny Willott	4	5.5
David Winnick	1	1.0
Derek Wyatt	4	1.0
Total	459	2.25

[1] Includes PQs unanswered as at 29 April 2008.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there were for dog fighting in the last 12 months. [202335]

Maria Eagle: The information held by my Department on court proceedings does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case other than the information that may be gleaned from the offence itself. As a result offences involving illegal dog fighting cannot be separately identified from other offences of animal cruelty under the Protection of Animals Act 1911, nor can it be separated from offences of 'animal fighting' under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Electoral Register

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the system of electoral registration; and if he will make a statement. [202981]

Bridget Prentice: Since November 2007 my Department has received 105 representations about the system of electoral registration, including access to the electoral register, franchise arrangements for overseas voters and reducing the voting age to 16. I have personally written to 54 Members of Parliament in response to these representations. During the same period, I have also answered 25 parliamentary questions relating to electoral registration.

Non-molestation Orders

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have applied for a non-molestation order since 1 July 2007. [202580]

Bridget Prentice: From 1 July 2007 to 31 March 2008, 11,915 applications for a non-molestation order were made to county courts.

Prison: Paganism

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to Prison Service Instruction 2005/33, on the practice of paganism in prison, how many wands are available in prisons in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [203230]

Maria Eagle: This information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service policy is to enable prisoners of different faith traditions, including Paganism, to practise their religion. Guidance on the practice of religion in prisons is set out in Prison Service Order (PSO) 4550 (Religion), a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

The PSO contains details of religious artefacts which are allowed in possession for relevant faiths so that prisoners can practise their religion within the constraints of good order and discipline. The information on Paganism was developed in consultation with the Pagan Federation and enables prisons to facilitate its practice properly and responsibly. The religious artefacts for Pagan prisoners include a flexible twig for a wand.

Information on prisons in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Prisoners: Early Release

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many early release offenders who have been recalled since June 2007 are still at large; what steps are being taken to apprehend them; and what offences they were convicted of. [198621]

Mr. Hanson: The end of custody licence was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and four years may be released under licence from prison up to up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

All prisoners released on ECL are liable to recall if they are reported to have misbehaved during the period of the licence. A decision to recall an offender from ECL lies with the governors of establishments, and it is the responsibility of the establishments to ensure the police are notified that the prisoner's ECL licence has been revoked and the offender is to be returned to custody.

Between 29 June 2007 and 29 February 2008, 745 offenders were notified as recalled, following their release on ECL. This equates to 4 per cent. of those released on ECL. As of 21 March 2008, 612 (82 per cent.) of these offenders had been returned to custody, while 133 (18 per cent.) had not yet been returned to custody. The offences for which those 133 offenders were convicted, are listed in the following table:

Offence category	*Number*
Violent offences against the person	38
Burglary	36
Robbery	4
Theft	51
Fraud	5
Drug	9
Driving	9
Other	52

The police local to the area where the offender was living will be notified of the recall of the offender by the Governor of the releasing establishment. Arrest and return to custody of those offenders is an operational matter for the police.

Information about end of custody licence releases and recalls is published on a monthly basis on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

The latest report was published on 31 March and refers to February as the reporting month.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects on prisoners of being released early. [202319]

Mr. Hanson: During the year 2006-07 there were 4,285 offenders subject to Post Release Licence (offenders serving 12 months or more and those under 22 years of age). Of these 246 (5.7 per cent.) were recalled following an allegation of a further offence.

The Home Detention Curfew Scheme (HOC) began in 1999. It is applied to prisoners serving sentences of between three months and under four years who meet the eligibility criteria. It allows prisoners to live outside prison providing they do not breach the rules of their curfew. Approximately 148,000 prisoners have been released on HDC since the scheme began. 85 per cent. complete their curfew successfully. About 4 per cent. are reported to re-offend during the curfew period.

The End of Custody Licence Scheme (ECL) came into effect on 29 June 2007. Prisoners serving sentences of four weeks or more but less than four years who meet the eligibility criteria are released under licence up to 18 days earlier than they would otherwise be released. Between 29 June 2007 and 31 March 2008 about 23,700 prisoners have been released under the scheme. Of those released NOMS have been notified that about 3 per cent. have been recalled and just 1 per cent. have been notified as allegedly offending during the ECL period.

All prisoners who are subject to HDC/ECL including those who are not subject to Post Release Licence are liable to recall if they are reported to have misbehaved during the HDC/ECL period.

During the HDC/ECL period offenders who are subject to Post-Release Licence are required to meet their Offender Manager after release and to have regular contact after that in line with Probation Service National Standards. During the HDC/ECL period prisoners are encouraged to seek employment and training and to engage with relevant community resources. These measures apply only to those who have accommodation to go to.

Prisons

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many new prison blocks have been commissioned in each of the last five years; and how many of them were commissioned under the private finance initiative model; [202529]

(2) how many new prisons have been commissioned in each of the last five years; and how many of them were commissioned under the private finance initiative model. [202530]

Mr. Hanson: 27 new prison accommodation units, which are now in use, have been commissioned since the 2003-04 financial year. Of these, two are in contracted prisons.

Financial year	*Number of units in public sector prisons*	*Number of units in contracted prisons*
2003-04	3	2
2004-05	5	0
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	15	0
2007-08	2	0

The contract signature for conversion works to commence at HMP Kennet, a public sector prison, took place in the financial year 2006-07. No other contracts for new prisons have been signed in the last five financial years.

Prostitution: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many men aged *(a)* 40 to 49, *(b)* 50 to 59, *(c)* 60 to 69, *(d)* 70 to 79 and *(e)* 80 years and above were prosecuted for offences relating to prostitution in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) offence and (ii) police force area. [202318]

Maria Eagle: The information requested covering offences relating to prostitution is provided in the following tables.

The figures given relate to males for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of males aged 40-49 proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences related to prostitution, by police force area and offence class, England and Wales 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Procuration										*Child prostitution and pornography*[5]		
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Dorset	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Number of males aged 40-49 proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences related to prostitution, by police force area and offence class, England and Wales 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Procuration										Child prostitution and pornography[5]		
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hampshire	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Leicestershire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	1
Metropolitan Police	2	2	1	1	1	5	2	5	1	1	—	1	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—
Nottinghamshire	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Thames Valley	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
West Mercia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
West Midlands	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	3	1	—	—	1	1
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	1
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
North Wales	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	17	9	11	5	14	14	8	17	6	5	5	14	6

	Brothel keeping									
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	3
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Brothel keeping

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	2	1	3	2	—	1	1	6	—	9

Kerb crawling

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	5	1	1	—	1	4	1	1	—	2
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	10	9	3	2	1
Cleveland	1	15	22	47	40	33	52	43	31	26
Derbyshire	—	—	—	2	8	11	8	1	6	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	6	1	1	2	2	2	1	—	—	3
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	5	3	2	10	1	—	1	—	1	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	24	14	5	18	9	6	5	9	5	6
Hampshire	5	2	5	6	8	1	—	3	5	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Kent	—	—	1	—	3	3	—	2	1	1
Lancashire	1	1	—	1	—	7	—	1	1	—
Leicestershire	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	3	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	3	2
Metropolitan Police	49	68	67	62	72	138	103	130	99	107
Norfolk	19	17	5	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	2	5	8	7	12	10
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	13	16	12	13	14	7	1	2	3	3
South Yorkshire	2	1	1	1	6	18	10	4	3	—
Staffordshire	4	3	—	—	6	13	3	9	4	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	2	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	30	19	23	4	11	16	17	8	25	26
West Yorkshire	11	6	8	5	12	44	29	6	11	7
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
England and Wales	178	169	154	171	213	329	251	236	217	195

Number of males aged 50-59 proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences related to prostitution, by police force area and offence class, England and Wales 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Procuration										Child prostitution and pornography[5]		
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cheshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Humberside	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Merseyside	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	4	—	1	2	—	1	2	4	—	1	—	—	—
Norfolk	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	13	5	5	8	4	5	7	8	2	7	3	3	2

	Brothel keeping									
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hampshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

Brothel keeping

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	2	3	1

Kerb crawling

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	2	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	1	3
Bedfordshire	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	2
Cleveland	3	4	13	16	16	18	19	36	20	11
Derbyshire	—	—	—	1	4	2	1	2	2	—
Devon and Cornwall	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	1	4	1	4	7	2	1	—	—	1
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	1	4	4	5	3	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	16	5	1	9	2	3	3	4	8	5
Hampshire	2	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	1	3
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
Lancashire	—	1	1	—	1	3	3	3	—	1
Leicestershire	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Merseyside	1	1	—	1	8	1	—	—	—	3
Metropolitan Police	24	35	27	23	26	31	33	36	42	27
Norfolk	6	2	2	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	3	—	5	3	4	2
Nottinghamshire	12	5	9	5	6	2	—	1	2	—
South Yorkshire	—	1	—	1	6	8	15	2	3	—
Staffordshire	1	2	—	—	2	9	2	1	3	2
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	9	13	4	4	11	8	11	11	7	10
West Yorkshire	6	6	5	3	6	15	20	6	11	3
Wiltshire	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—
England and Wales	87	87	69	83	106	117	124	114	109	77

Number of males aged 60 and over proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences related to prostitution, by age group, police force area and offence class, England and Wales 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Procuration										Child prostitution and pornography		
Age group and Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
60-69													
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Metropolitan Police	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Norfolk	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
West Yorkshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	3	—	2	1	5	—	1	1	—	2	2
70-79													
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
80 and over													
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Brothel keeping									
Age group and police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
60-69										

Brothel keeping

Age group and police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
70-79										
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
80 and over										
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Kerb crawling

Age group and police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
60-69										
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cleveland	1	—	3	7	2	3	4	6	3	3
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	1	1
Dorset	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Kerb crawling

Age group and police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Essex	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	2	4	—	1	2	2	1	1	5	4
Hampshire	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Metropolitan Police	12	6	11	8	12	10	10	20	7	6
Norfolk	1	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4	2
Nottinghamshire	2	3	—	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
South Yorkshire	1	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	1	2
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
West Midlands	3	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	7	4
West Yorkshire	1	4	—	—	2	7	12	3	2	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	28	23	18	23	26	35	47	36	34	25
70-79										
Cleveland	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Metropolitan Police	2	1	2	—	—	—	4	2	1	1
Norfolk	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—
Staffordshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	—	—	—
Total	4	6	3	2	4	8	11	7	4	2
80 and over										
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[3] Where a police force is not displayed in the table there were no defendants proceeded against for the offence from 1997 to 2006 within that force area.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] Data not available for years prior to 2004 as offences under this category are under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on the 1st May 2004. The statute replaced many of the procuration offences in the table from 2004 onwards.
Source:
Court Proceedings Database - Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Protection of Badgers Act 1992: Prosecutions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those prosecuted under the provisions of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 received custodial sentences, excluding suspended sentences, in each year since its introduction. [202728]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Number sentenced[1] for offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, all courts, England and Wales 1992 to 2006

	Total sentenced	*Immediate custody*
1992	—	—
1993	31	2
1994	35	6
1995	33	3
1996	23	5
1997	29	10

Number sentenced[1] for offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, all courts, England and Wales 1992 to 2006

	Total sentenced	Immediate custody
1998	10	—
1999	28	4
2000	20	—
2001	36	—
2002	28	3
2003	16	—
2004	22	1
2005	20	8
2006	7	1

[1] Principal offences basis.

Note:
The offence of 'Failing to give up a dog for destruction to having custody of a dog whilst disqualified' is an offence under the Badger Act (1992) and the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991). It has been included in these figures, although it is not possible to tell which Act was intended when sentencing. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
NOMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Young Offenders: Remand in Custody

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17-year-olds were on remand in each police authority area in each year since 1997; and how many went on to serve a prison sentence. [200246]

Mr. Hanson: The numbers of 15 to 17-year-olds held on remand (incorporating untried and convicted unsentenced) in all prison establishments in England and Wales since 1997 can be found in the following table. A breakdown by police authority area is not available.

Population of under 18-year-olds held on remand since 1997 (as at 30 June)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Males and females on remand										
Aged 15	74	86	44	51	48	59	37	52	52	59
Aged 16	171	183	155	114	98	154	121	118	121	134
Aged 17	561	508	513	409	312	305	314	340	313	380
Males on remand										
Aged 15	74	86	44	51	48	59	37	52	52	59
Aged 16	171	183	155	114	98	154	121	117	121	134
Aged 17	543	491	494	389	287	293	294	322	298	361
Females on remand										
Aged 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aged 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Aged 17	18	17	19	20	25	12	20	18	15	19

The following table gives the percentages of prisoners of all ages held on remand[1] where the outcome of the court proceedings is a period of immediate custody. This information is not available for 15 to 17-year-olds separately.

[1] Includes persons remanded in custody by magistrates during proceedings or on committal.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage 2006
Males							
Immediate custody	48	51	50	49	52	53	54
Females							
Immediate custody	36	42	41	40	41	43	45

These figures are taken from the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, tables 8.20 and 7.11, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Research Establishment: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the role of the Building Research Establishment was in the home information pack area trials. [202459]

Caroline Flint: Building Research Establishment were sub contracted by Ipsos MORI to assist in the analysis and write-up of the findings of the area trials.

Connect Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the *(a)* Core Cities Group, *(b)* Thames Gateway London Partnership and *(c)* Housing Corporation made to Connect Public Affairs in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202286]

Caroline Flint: The Housing Corporation has not made any payments to Connect Public Affairs during this period. The Core Cities Group and Thames Gateway London Partnership are independent of my Department and are open to employ public relations agencies directly. Any information should be sought from them.

Conservation Areas

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many conservation areas there are in England. [202618]

Mr. Iain Wright: English Heritage publish information on conservation areas in their annual publication Heritage Counts. The most recent edition, Heritage Counts 2007, quotes a figure of 9,374 conservation areas in England—a figure first quoted in Heritage Counts 2005—with the following qualification:

> "After the publication of Heritage Counts 2005, it became apparent while updating the figures that English Heritage had not been informed of all conservation area designations and the data gave an inaccurate representation of the total number. Heritage Counts 2005 quoted a figure of 9,374 conservation areas as of April 2005. SHER 2002 had quoted a figure of 9,027 as of June 2002. Data from local authorities collected as part of the Best Value Performance Indicator regime give a different figure of 9,273 conservation areas in England in 2005-06.
>
> As a result of these discrepancies, EH is investigating the feasibility of creating a national dataset of conservation areas and from 2006 has been conducting a pilot in the south east region. If this is deemed to be feasible and resources are available it may be possible to provide detailed statistics on conservation areas in a future edition of Heritage Counts".

Eco-Towns

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department owns land in any of the 15 locations short-listed as possible eco-towns. [201839]

Caroline Flint: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not own land in any of the shortlisted eco-town locations. One of the Department's Agencies, English Partnerships, owns land in one of the shortlisted locations, Pennbury near Leicester. This is the Stretton Hall farmland site included in the portfolio of 96 sites which was acquired by English Partnerships from the Department of Health in April 2005 and forms part of the agency's Hospital Sites programme.

Eco-Towns: Public Participation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations *(a)* for and *(b)* against each of the 15 locations shortlisted as potential eco-towns have been received by her Department. [201846]

Caroline Flint: We are currently undertaking a three month consultation on the preliminary views on eco-town benefits and the shortlisted locations. The consultation closes on 30 June and in due course we will provide a further statement on the responses received, together with an indication of how the process influenced the policy. Our aim will be to publish this within three months of the consultation closing on 30 June.

Gardens

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are considering to end the practice of automatically classifying gardens as brownfield sites; and if she will make a statement. [201575]

Mr. Iain Wright: Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" (PPS3) defines brownfield land as that

> "which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure".

There are no plans to change this definition, the substance of which was first introduced in Planning Policy Guidance note 3 in 2000, and is based on land use change statistics categories of brownfield land which have been the same since 1985.

Local authorities have always had the ability to turn down applications for inappropriate housing development in back gardens. PPS3, which came into force in April 2007, has strengthened that ability further. In particular, local authorities have now been given the ability to put in place local policies that specifically protect gardens and to separate gardens out from their wider brownfield development targets. The policy also makes clear that there is no presumption that land is suitable for housing simply because it is brownfield, stressing the need for sites to be suitable for housing development, and in suitable locations that will contribute to the creation of sustainable, mixed communities.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date a home information pack will be required for a home placed on the market before a home information pack became compulsory to market it and which is not yet sold. [202566]

Caroline Flint: We continue to keep the operation of home information packs (HIPs) under review including the date when all properties marketed for sale would require a HIP regardless of when the property was first placed on the market.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact stand-alone home condition report without home information packs had on transactions in the home information pack area trials. [202639]

Caroline Flint: There were no stand-alone home condition reports as part of the area trials.

Homes and Communities Agency: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the Homes and Communities Agency will use in deciding whether to invoke its powers to rule on development applications as a local planning authority. [202652]

Caroline Flint: The Homes and Communities Agency will not decide whether to invoke its powers to rule on development applications as a local planning authority.

In designated areas, local planning powers may be conferred on the Homes and Communities Agency by the Secretary of State. This will be done after consultation with relevant local authorities and local planning authorities. A designation order will specify the particular powers to be conferred on the Agency in any given case.

Housing Associations: Disabled

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what statutory obligations housing associations have to accommodate the needs of disabled tenants; [202599]

(2) what statutory obligations housing associations have to improve their housing stock for disabled tenants; [202504]

(3) what statutory obligations housing associations have to *(a)* rehouse disabled tenants and *(b)* prioritise their needs on local housing waiting lists. [202503]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing associations (RSLs) are independent not-for-profit organisations responsible for their own lettings policy, governance and management of stock. However, under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, it is unlawful for service providers (including housing associations) to treat someone less favourably because of their disability, and they must make 'reasonable adjustments' for them, such as giving that person extra help or changing the way they provide their services.

Further, the Housing Corporation, which invests in and regulates RSLs, also has statutory duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Through its regulatory code, it requires that RSLs operate according to the law, their constitutions and regulatory requirements. The code requires that they demonstrate when carrying out all their functions commitment to equal opportunities, work towards the elimination of discrimination, demonstrate an equitable approach to rights of all individuals, and be responsive to the individual circumstances of residents. RSLs should have an equalities and diversity policy.

The regulatory code requires that RSLs have lettings and sales policies which are flexible, non-discriminatory, responsive to demand, and which contribute to the need to be inclusive and ensure sustainable communities. Section 170 of the 1996 Housing Act requires that RSLs co-operate with local housing authorities to enable the latter to fulfil their duties to the homeless, the vulnerable, people in priority housing need and those covered by the Government's Supporting People policy. Where a local authority so requests, and to such an extent as is reasonable in the circumstances, RSLs must co-operate in offering accommodation to people with priority on the authority's housing register. In addition, section 106(2) of the Housing Act 1985 requires that RSLs maintain a set of rules determining priority between applicants in allocating housing accommodation and the rules governing the procedure.

Housing: Floods

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses were built in high flood risk areas between 1997 and 2005; and how many houses indicated in plans scheduled for completion by 2020 as part of the Government's programme to build three million new homes are to be built in areas determined by the Environment Agency as high flood risk areas. [202564]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the Lord Ryder of Wensum on 1 April 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA153-54.

Housing: Affordable Homes

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the impact of equity leaseback schemes. [198161]

Mr. Iain Wright: In June 2005 DTZ Pieda were commissioned by the Government to review existing equity release schemes. The report and summary were published in April 2007 and can be viewed on the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/loanfinance

Local authorities are expected to offer packages of assistance to help ensure that resources can be used more efficiently and effectively to help more people with reduced reliance on public funding. This could include equity release schemes although this is at the discretion of the local authority.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average public subsidy per dwelling for a property was under the *(a)* Social Market Homebuy, *(b)* New Build Homebuy and *(c)* Open Market Homebuy schemes in 2007-08. [203061]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the average grant provided through the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme for each of the homebuy products in the financial year 2007-08.

Product	Average grant (£)
Social Homebuy	12,210
New Build Homebuy	21,399
Open Market Homebuy	28,854

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in Romsey constituency in each year since 1997. [203075]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on affordable homes by constituency is not available. Information for Test Valley local authority, which covers Romsey and Andover, is in the following table. The figures include social rent and intermediate affordable housing new build; they exclude affordable housing acquisitions.

New build affordable homes in Test Valley local authority

	New affordable homes—new builds
1997-98	50
1998-99	45
1999-2000	47
2000-01	73
2001-02	38
2002-03	117
2003-04	24
2004-05	56
2005-06	69
2006-07	81

Source:
Registered social landlord new build figures from the Housing Corporation, local authority new build completions from P2 returns.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that new residential developments in housing hotspots reflect local housing need, with particular reference to the need for affordable family homes. [203176]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing (PPS3) expects local planning authorities and regions to take a positive, plan-led approach to providing the right quantity of housing, both market and affordable, to address need and demand in their areas, and the right quality and mix of housing for their communities, based on a robust evidence-based approach. This is why PPS3 asks local planning authorities to carry out strategic housing market assessments, which should then inform the planning process.

In particular, PPS3 requires authorities to assess local need for affordable housing so that they can set appropriate targets for the amount of housing to be provided in their plans, including specifying the size and type of housing such as those for families that, in their judgment, is likely to be required.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that local authorities use appropriate mechanisms to require that homes for sale which were granted planning consent as affordable are sold to people who are on a low income and not purchased by investors to be let at an unaffordable rent. [203177]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities can enter into planning obligations with persons with an interest in land ("developers"); to provide affordable housing in line with the needs identified in their local development plans; to restrict the occupancy of a new residential development in accordance with their local development plan policies; and restrict the sale of affordable housing units to specific organisations (for example a registered social landlord), and define affordable housing in ways to ensure that the units are sold or rented at prices that are affordable to the local community.

Housing: West Yorkshire

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built in each West Yorkshire constituency in each year since 1992. [203335]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on new build completions by constituency is not held centrally. Information for the districts within West Yorkshire is in the following table:

New build completions for the districts within West Yorkshire

	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield
1992-93	812	177	1,331	1,742	634
1993-94	939	290	874	2,111	655
1994-95	1,187	376	1,074	2,182	959
1995-96	1,264	360	1,047	2,161	1,162
1996-97	1,377	356	1,297	2,030	990
1997-98	1,111	374	1,080	2,033	808
1998-99	1,127	499	1,080	1,744	1,255
1999-2000	1,207	433	771	1,952	1,275
2000-01	1,043	355	1,042	1,984	1,097
2001-02	1,259	432	899	1,928	1,283
2002-03	1,220	372	221	2,002	1,136
2003-04	1,104	487	670	2,948	972
2004-05	1,138	765	646	3,123	1,024
2005-06	1,299	754	824	3,229	1,020
2006-07	1,286	1,001	1,081	2,685	1,208

Source:
New build completions from P2 returns submitted by local authorities and National House Building Council (NHBC).

Land Use: Agriculture

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government plan to review Planning Policy Statement 7 (2004) on developments on agricultural land; and if she will make a statement. [203074]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans to revise policy in planning policy statement 7 (2004) on developments on agricultural land.

Local Authorities: Buildings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are upon a local authority to advertise the sale of a property of which it is disposing. [202560]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 233 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, local authorities can dispose of land, including property, in any manner they wish. But if a local authority proposes to dispose of land that is open space, it must publish a notice of its proposals for at least two weeks in a local newspaper and consider any objections received. Open space in this context means any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground.

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation: Euro RSCG Apex Communications

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation made to Euro RSCG Apex Communications in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202285]

Caroline Flint: The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation has employed Euro RSCG Apex Communications to provide general public affairs advice on a range of issues. They have made payments in 2006-07 of £26,261 and in 2007-08 of £14,834.

National Interest Mapping Services Agreement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes in *(a)* service and *(b)* data provision Ordnance Survey has made to the Mapping for Emergencies service since the ending of the National Interest Mapping Services Agreement; and how many staff were employed by the service (i) before and (ii) after the period covered by that agreement. [202647]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since the ending of the National Interest Mapping Services Agreement (NIMSA) no fundamental changes have been made by Ordnance Survey to the Mapping for Emergencies service, though at an operational level Ordnance Survey has extended the arrangements with a number of its partners to ensure timely local supplies of information when appropriate, as well as improving processes, contact arrangements and raising awareness of the service among civil contingency response agencies.

No changes have been made to data provision under the Mapping for Emergencies service. Authorities responding to emergencies continue to be able to request data and mapping from Ordnance Survey's full range of products and services, as may be appropriate to the specific needs of the incident.

When a Mapping for Emergencies service request is received, staff are temporarily deployed from other duties according to their specialism, to meet the particular requirements of the incident.

Information on staff deployment to the Mapping for Emergencies service prior to 1 April 1999, when NIMSA was established, is not readily available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In the period since NIMSA ended on 31 December 2006, a total of 12 different staff were deployed in response to two requests between 1 January and 31 March 2007. Twenty-three different staff were deployed across eight incidents during financial year 2007-2008.

Ordnance Survey: Mandate Communications

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments Ordnance Survey made to Mandate Communications/AS Biss and Co in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202287]

Mr. Iain Wright: Mandate Communications (formerly known as AS Biss and Co) provide Ordnance Survey with consultancy and advice on Corporate Communications and Public Affairs.

Mandate Communications have been contracted to Ordnance Survey since August 2007. Payments since that date amount to £42,076.20 + VAT in total.

Planning Permission: Prosecutions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many prosecutions have been brought under building control regulations against people who have opened up access through the party wall of adjoining terraced properties without permission since 2001. [202923]

Mr. Iain Wright: None. These are two separate pieces of legislation.

The building regulations set out a series of performance standards which building work should achieve and the process for ensuring compliance with those requirements. They are enforced by the relevant building control body.

The Party Wall etc Act 1996 provides a framework for preventing and resolving disputes in relation to party walls, boundary walls and excavations near neighbouring buildings. Responsibility for ensuring compliance rests with the building owner who wishes to carry out the work. Failure to follow the procedures laid down in the Act is a civil matter for the relevant parties.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1275W, on regional planning and development, in which local authorities have Development Plan documents have been *(a)* amended by the planning inspector and *(b)* rejected by the planning inspector as unsound. [202481]

Mr. Iain Wright: The planning inspector does not 'amend' development plan documents. The purpose of the independent examination is to consider if the development plan document is sound. An inspector may find the document sound; he may recommend that it is changed in order to become sound; or he may find it unsound and recommend that it is withdrawn. A local authority may only adopt a plan in accordance

with the inspector's recommendations; but it also may choose not to adopt a plan.

Development plan documents for the following local authorities have been found sound by inspectors subject to inspectors' recommendations for changes.

Bedford
Broads Authority
Chelmsford
South Cambridgeshire
Southend on Sea
Havering
Kingston on Thames
Redbridge
Alnwick
Blyth Valley
Middlesbrough
Newcastle upon Tyne
Redcar and Cleveland
South Tyneside
Tynedale
Bracknell Forest
Crawley
Epsom and Ewell
Hampshire
Horsham
Maidstone
Mid Sussex
Milton Keynes
Portsmouth
Reading
Surrey
Tonbridge and Malling
Carrick
Dartmoor
Mid Devon
Plymouth
South Hams
Staffordshire
Telford and Wrekin
Worcester
Hambleton

Development plan documents for the following local authorities have been found unsound by inspectors.

Windsor and Maidenhead
Carrick
Teignbridge
Lichfield
Stafford
Worcester
Ryedale
Restormel
Chichester

Social Rented Housing: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 66-67WS, on the national strategy for housing in an ageing society: disabled facilities grant (funding), whether socially rented housing built under private finance initiative arrangements will be *(a)* classed as publicly-funded housing and *(b)* required to be built to Lifetime Homes Standards from 2011. [197006]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* Social rented housing built under a PFI contract is constructed using private sector capital investment but the cost is underpinned by contractual payments to the private sector from the local authority revenue budget which are partly supported by central Government grant. On this basis PFI would count as publicly funded.

We intend that social rented homes built under PFI from 2011 are built to Lifetime Homes Standards.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information from local authority *(a)* planning and *(b)* building control departments is passed to the Valuation Office Agency via the Valuebill interface. [202631]

John Healey: No information from either planning or building control departments is passed directly to the Valuation Office Agency via the Valuebill interface.

Billing authority revenues departments send electronic billing authority reports (e-BARs) to the Valuation Office Agency via electronic interfaces developed through Valuebill. Some of these e-BARs are instigated as a result of information received by the revenues department from the planning or building control departments.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Arrests: Football

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions of supporters of each team were made at Premier League football matches in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [195833]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested, which is collated by the UK Football Policing Unit, is shown in the following tables.

	2002-03 season				*2003-04 season*			
	Arrests	*Cautioned*	*Charged*	*Convicted*	*Arrests*	*Cautioned*	*Charged*	*Convicted*
Arsenal	36	9	12	10	24	4	11	9
Aston Villa	89	11	48	38	84	14	42	39
Birmingham City	125	13	79	70	54	10	26	20

	2002-03 season				2003-04 season			
	Arrests	*Cautioned*	*Charged*	*Convicted*	*Arrests*	*Cautioned*	*Charged*	*Convicted*
Blackburn Rovers	19	5	9	7	45	3	13	
Bolton Wanderers	54	10	32	30	18	6	3	
Charlton Athletic	12	2	4	4	6	1	4	2
Chelsea	85	24	29	27	33	3	13	10
Crystal Palace	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Everton	87	35	33	25	60	16	27	17
Fulham	10	3	1	1	8	1	4	3
Leeds United	79	8	49	41	110	12	57	44
Leicester City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35	8	21	13
Liverpool	77	43	23	18	57	19	22	17
Manchester City	91	39	41	33	68	20	36	25
Manchester United	111	23	42	35	109	31	35	33
Middlesbrough	66	17	30	22	46	10	18	16
Newcastle United	99	36	30	29	53	9	28	26
Norwich City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Portsmouth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	181	26	134	124
Reading	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sheffield United	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southampton	23	5	15	11	25	2	20	17
Sunderland	157	60	56	52	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tottenham Hotspur	71	7	22	20	79	11	31	30
Watford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Bromwich Albion	59	19	21	17	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Ham United	56	13	28	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wigan Athletic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wolverhampton Wanderers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	37	8	20	19
Total	1,406	382	504	515	1,132	214	565	476

	2004-05 season				2005-06 season			
	Arrests	*Cautioned*	*Charged*	*Convicted*	*Arrests*	*Cautioned*	*Charged*	*Convicted*
Arsenal	19	1	10	3	65	2	39	31
Aston Villa	86	17	54	38	50	3	11	9
Birmingham City	37	2	12	5	69	5	35	25
Blackburn Rovers	24	4	11	9	21	3	10	9
Bolton Wanderers	24	0	13	9	34	7	17	16
Charlton Athletic	29	4	16	8	20	1	2	0
Chelsea	69	15	35	19	62	4	19	16
Crystal Palace	18	6	9	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Everton	62	28	19	10	71	11	38	28
Fulham	9	3	4	3	11	0	1	1
Leeds United	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicester City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Liverpool	59	12	18	7	53	10	23	19
Manchester City	74	14	46	16	69	5	34	24
Manchester United	99	6	44	19	116	13	50	42
Middlesbrough	31	4	21	11	26	13	8	7
Newcastle United	53	8	34	24	91	7	30	28
Norwich City	22	8	9	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Portsmouth	30	2	15	5	25	3	12	7
Reading	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sheffield United	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southampton	37	8	21	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunderland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	109	25	56	40
Tottenham Hotspur	67	22	29	9	169	3	30	14
Watford	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Bromwich Albion	61	9	38	28	28	2	20	14
West Ham United	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31	0	6	3
Wigan Athletic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36	3	20	15

	2004-05 season				2005-06 season			
	Arrests	Cautioned	Charged	Convicted	Arrests	Cautioned	Charged	Convicted
Wolverhampton Wanderers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	910	173	458	243	1,156	120	461	348

	2006-07 season			
	Arrests	Cautioned	Charged	Convicted
Arsenal	64	6	31	23
Aston Villa	57	17	19	14
Birmingham City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blackburn Rovers	17	3	10	6
Bolton Wanderers	27	1	18	16
Charlton Athletic	15	0	11	7
Chelsea	72	11	24	17
Crystal Palace	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Everton	67	14	27	24
Fulham	7	1	1	1
Leeds United	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicester City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Liverpool	41	7	26	19
Manchester City	64	10	37	26
Manchester United	125	26	55	38
Middlesbrough	48	11	23	19
Newcastle United	77	12	52	42
Norwich City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Portsmouth	26	5	10	6
Reading	25	3	13	6
Sheffield United	63	6	16	13
Southampton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunderland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tottenham Hotspur	51	12	22	15
Watford	13	1	2	2
West Bromwich Albion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Ham United	95	7	41	31
Wigan Athletic	30	6	8	8
Wolverhampton Wanderers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	984	159	446	333

n/a indicates this team was not a member of the FA Premier League during this season

Asylum: Children

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the percentage of funds repaid by Government to Kent county council in respect of expenditure making provision for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [202368]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 April 2008]:* The percentage of expenditure repaid to Kent in respect of expenditure claimed from the Home Office for the provision of service to unaccompanied asylum seeking children was: 100 per cent. of total eligible expenditure claimed, including special circumstances, in 2004-05 and 2005-06; 92 per cent. of total eligible expenditure claimed in 2006-07.

The grant claim timetable means that the figure for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Case Resolution Directorate: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in the Case Resolution Directorate; and if she will make a statement. [200119]

Mr. Byrne: There are currently 878 full-time staff and 207 part-time staff members employed within the Case Resolution Directorate. This information is based on internal management information.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts her Department signed on a consultancy basis with a net value of more than £20,000 in each year since 1997. [200486]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not hold a central record of contracts. To identify and assemble the requested list from individual records held across the Home Office Headquarters and its executive agencies would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what opinion research companies her Department has employed in each of the last five years; and what the cost was of each contract. [200488]

Mr. Byrne: During the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 the Home Office employed TNS to undertake its public opinion polling. This was at a total cost of £243,460 (ex VAT). During 2006 and 2007 Ipsos MORI carried out the opinion polling at a total cost of £264,525 (ex VAT).

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets her Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199043]

Mr. Byrne: The current Cabinet Office target, as set out in '10 Point Plan on creating a diverse civil service' (commonly referred to as the 10 Point Plan), for the employment of staff declaring a disability is 3.2 per cent. by April 2008.

The Department is awaiting the publication of the successor to the 10 Point Plan, which is currently being developed and due for publication later this summer.

Firearms: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 657-58W, on Firearms: Crime, how many *(a)* gun crimes and *(b)* arrests relating to gun crime there were (i) in England and Wales and (ii) in each police force area in each year since 2005-06. [201598]

Mr. Coaker: Available data relate to offences involving firearms (excluding air weapons) recorded during 2005-06 and 2006-07 and are given in the following table. Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

The arrests collection undertaken by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary etc. More detailed data about specific offences are not collected.

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were to have been used[1], by police force area: England and Wales 2005-06 and 2006-07

Police force area	2005-06	Recorded crime 2006-07
North East region		
Cleveland	41	19
Durham	18	14
Northumbria	137	111
North West region		
Cheshire	71	41
Cumbria	18	21
Greater Manchester	1,200	993
Lancashire	372	364
Merseyside	485	410
Yorkshire and the Humber region		
Humberside	108	117
North Yorkshire	15	14
South Yorkshire	301	211
West Yorkshire	355	319
East Midlands region		
Derbyshire	109	83
Leicestershire	89	109
Lincolnshire	72	45
Northamptonshire	128	159
Nottinghamshire	277	196
West Midlands region		
Staffordshire	128	94
Warwickshire	80	90
West Mercia	115	63
West Midlands	946	979
East of England region		
Bedfordshire	103	86
Cambridgeshire	34	24
Essex	280	255
Hertfordshire	114	89
Norfolk	29	34
Suffolk	58	42
London region	3,884	3,331
South East region		
Hampshire	85	122
Kent	142	92
Surrey	87	60
Sussex	85	84
Thames Valley	401	332
South West region		
Avon and Somerset	167	138
Devon and Cornwall	174	132
Dorset	27	28
Gloucestershire	77	65
Wiltshire	43	69
Wales		
Dyfed Powys	21	17
Gwent	53	33
North Wales	88	98
South Wales	71	67
England and Wales	11,088	9,650
England and Wales (excluding London region)	7,204	6,319

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat. *Note:* Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

Foreign Workers: Health Professions

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued for *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors from African countries in each year since 2005. [199404]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The following table shows the number of work permit applications which were approved for applications from nurses and doctors from Africa, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007.

	Africa	
	Doctor	Nurse
2005	590	7,840
2006	520	4,585
2007	230	2,780

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police force *(a)* requested in recharge payments and *(b)* received in recharge payments from the Immigration Service where immigration officers authorised the detention of a suspected illegal immigrant, in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [202571]

Mr. Byrne: The information is as follows:

(a) Details of recharge payments made to individual police forces are in the table.

(b) The information requested about recharge payments where immigration officers have authorised the detention of a suspected illegal immigrant could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records and only at disproportionate cost.

	Police expenditure		
Police authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	160	62	51
Bedfordshire Police	22	10	10
British Transport	12	10	0
Cambridgeshire Police	101	134	117
Central Scotland Police	0	0	8
Cheshire Police	104	61	8
Cleveland Police	94	39	39
Cumbria Police	1	5	1
Derbyshire Police	0	15	1
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	136	203	147
Dorset Police	95	152	147
Dumfries and Galloway Council	6	100	67
Durham Constabulary	23	0	0
Dyfed Powys Police	43	50	48
Essex Police Authority	96	86	34
Fife Council	0	0	2
Gloucestershire Police	30	12	7
Grampian Joint Police	13	12	11
Greater Manchester Police	187	216	206
Gwent Police Authority	55	42	25
Hampshire Constabulary	199	282	598
Hertfordshire Police	47	10	9
Humberside Police	63	35	53
Kent Police Authority	614	379	322
Lancashire Police	55	8	7
Leicestershire Police	43	29	2
Lincolnshire Police	92	193	71
Lothian and Borders	0	9	84
Merseyside Police	162	227	104
Metropolitan Police	2,997	2,886	3,655
Norfolk Police	6	2	1
North Wales Police	254	272	285
North Yorkshire Police	6	7	20
Northamptonshire Police	316	134	116
Northern Ireland Police	15	109	254
Northumbria Police	48	66	151
Nottinghamshire Police	18	72	62
Port of Tilbury	0	2	0
South Wales Police	252	133	152
South Yorkshire Police	44	56	91
Staffordshire Police	76	68	64
Strathclyde Police	0	6	88
Suffolk Police	1	0	1
Surrey Police	138	66	95
Sussex Police	442	224	173
Tayside Joint Police	0	0	17
Thames Valley Police	193	118	93
The Highland Council	5	1	2
Warwickshire Police	13	12	17
West Mercia Police	10	22	13
West Midlands Police	124	90	105
West Yorkshire Police	234	228	217
Wiltshire Constabulary	82	30	31
Total	7,728	6,884	7,892

Omar Ali Namo

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to be able to determine the immigration status of Omar Ali Namo (Ref N1063103). [201455]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 29 April 2008.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 670-1W, on Iraq, how many Iraqi nationals have been allowed entry into the UK while travelling with G-series passports since January 2007; how many have been granted entry using other passports issued by the Iraqi authorities; and what information her Department holds on the number of Iraqi citizens not allowed entry into the UK, broken down by type of passport. [201949]

Mr. Byrne: Information relating to the breakdown by type of document of applications for entry made by Iraqi nationals is unavailable. The United Kingdom Border Agency does not routinely collect the passport details of those individuals granted entry to the United Kingdom. Information relating to the passport details of those Iraqi nationals who have been refused entry to the United Kingdom could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter dated 8 February 2008 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on Mr. Kisuka. [197383]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 29 April 2008.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies was in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if she will make a statement. [189648]

Mr. Byrne: Media relations for the whole Department and agencies are handled by the Home Office, Communication Directorate based Press Office and in addition since May 2007 the Border Agency regional network of five Press officers.

The following table provides the total cost of providing these services each financial year from 1998-99 to 2006-07; total cost figures for 2007-08 are not yet available. Cost data for earlier years and for non-departmental public bodies, is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Total cost (£)*
1998-99	1,095,000
1999-2000	1,213,200
2000-01	2,184,200
2001-02	1,972,600
2002-03	3,109,449
2003-04	2,959,966
2004-05	2,777,578
2005-06	3,351,648
2006-07	3,238,534

Public Order Offences: Airports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces she has *(a)* received representations from and *(b)* had discussions with on concerns surrounding threats to public order arising from overcrowding or delays in processing passengers through airport security, customs and immigration procedures. [193124]

Mr. Byrne: The United Kingdom Border Agency regularly engages with police forces throughout the country with responsibility for airports to ensure that arriving flights are managed effectively, that passengers are processed efficiently and that threats to public order are minimised.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Cogent Sector Skills Council

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Cogent Sector Skills Council is taking to ensure that there is an adequate supply of people with the skills needed for the nuclear waste industries. [202632]

Mr. Lammy: Cogent Sector Skills Council (SSC) works with employers to ensure that the nuclear industry's skill requirements are met.

Cogent has a sector skills agreement (SSA) with the nuclear industry, Government, trade unions and other stakeholders. This identifies the skills needs of the sector and the recruitment, training and education solutions needed to address skills gaps. One important solution is the launch of the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN). NSAN is a subsidiary company of Cogent and, responding to employer demand in the sector, its focus is UK-wide with responsibilities for assuring training provision to agreed standards.

To address the specific skill needs of the nuclear waste industry, Cogent is working closely with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the National Skills Academy for Nuclear and employers. The initiatives include a web-based career pathways service and development of apprenticeship/modern apprenticeship frameworks, a nuclear industry training framework and national occupational standards along with the associated Scottish/national vocational qualifications, and foundation degrees. The career pathways scope the skills to deal with current nuclear waste volumes and the requirements of a future national nuclear waste repository.

Through the Alliance of SSCs, Cogent works with related SSCs as well as with other skills bodies, such as the Engineering Construction Industry Trade Board, to ensure the full range of skills required to deal with nuclear waste are available.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200223]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not provide any health or social care services out of public funds.

Learning and Skills Council: Weber Shandwick Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what payments the Learning and Skills Council made to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in each of the last five years; on what date; and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202265]

Bill Rammell: The payments made by the Learning and Skills Council at this level of detail are not collected by my Department. This is an operational matter for the LSC as they determine any payments to local providers, partners and other organisations that are necessary to support the delivery of the Council's key priorities and targets. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with further information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 30 April 2008:

I refer to your recent parliamentary question relating to the above. I am replying as your question is about the Learning and Skills Council.

Your question asked the Secretary State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what payments the Learning and Skills Council have made to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in each of the last five years; on what date; and for what purpose the payment was made in each case.

Below is a table that gives the amounts paid in the last five years totalling £94,187.87:

	Payment amount (£)
2006	
8 February	5,892.63
1 March	5,892.63
3 July	22.09
17 July	8,465.88
19 July	6,303.88
14 August	7,164.56
11 October	8,136.88
13 November	32.43
11 December	4,003.81
2007	
9 January	3,436.88
30 January	2,720.13
2 April	2,893.44
5 April	95.96
11 April	3,334.06
18 April	3,245.94
9 May	793.13
25 June	7,182.19
4 July	1,454.06,
11 July	4,230.00
23 August	4,861.56
20 September	2,350.00
24 October	1,615.63
7 November	1,101.56
19 November	1,380.63
28 November	953.85
5 December	925.31
2008	
7 January	2,217.81
17 March	881.25
14 April	1,454.06
16 April	1,145.63

The LSC has engaged the firm in its capacity as a Public Affairs Consultant to provide strategic counsel to the LSC Public Affairs team. The payments were all for information on the public affairs and media arenas in relation to the education and skills sector.

Mature Students: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* part-time and *(b)* mature students are in receipt of Government-funded support for the latest period for which figures are available. [195159]

Bill Rammell: The number and proportion of undergraduate students in receipt of student support is as follows (postgraduate students do not generally qualify for support):

Part-time and mature students, England, academic year 2006/07

	Students	*Students receiving loans, grants or allowances*	*Percentage receiving support*
Part-time undergraduates	454,300	45,500	10
Full-time undergraduates aged 21 or over	368,800	307,700	83

[1] English domiciled part-time students studying in the UK.
[2] English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU domiciled students studying in institutions in England. Students receiving support includes PGCE students.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency and Student Loans Company

Part-time students need to be studying at 50 per cent. of the intensity of a full-time student to apply for both a fee and course grant. This Government was the first to introduce statutory support for part-time students, in 2000/01. In 2006/07, we introduced the most generous package of financial support ever for part-time students in England. This included increasing the maximum fee grant by 27 per cent. and an above-inflation increase in the income threshold for receiving this support.

Mature full-time students are generally eligible for the same student support package as other students but maintenance loans are only available to those under 60. They can also access targeted support including the Adult Dependants' Grant, Parents Learning Allowance, Childcare Grant and Disabled Students Allowance. Students may also qualify for a bursary from their higher education institution.

From 2008/09, we are increasing the income thresholds for the means tested maintenance grant so many more full-time students, including mature students, will receive grant support. This will mean that one third of all eligible students in England entering higher education in the academic year 2008/09 are expected to be entitled to a full non-repayable grant worth £2,835 and another one third are expected to be entitled to a partial grant.

Overseas Students: Loans

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students from other EU member states other than the UK had a loan from the Student Loans Company at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the total value of such loans was. [202076]

Bill Rammell: EC nationals are eligible for tuition fee support only, provided that they have been ordinarily resident in the EEA and Switzerland for the three years prior to the start of their course. Prior to 2006/07 this support was in the form of a means tested grant.

During academic year 2006/07 8,300 EU domicile students took out loans with a total value of £22 million, which represents 0.6 per cent. of the total amount borrowed during the year.

Quality Improvement Agency: Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of the Quality Improvement Agency has been; and if he will make a statement. [201435]

Bill Rammell: The Quality Improvement Agency for Lifelong Learning is an advisory NDPB and was established on 1 April 2006. QIA will soon be merged with the Centre for Excellence in Leadership to form a new sector owned improvement body for the further education and skills sector.

In the financial year 2006 to 2007 the QIA's budget was £95.315 million, and its gross expenditure was £93.135 million.

In the financial year 2007 to 2008 the QIA's budget was £114.773 million. The figure for its gross expenditure in the financial year 2007-08 is not yet available as the Department will not receive the final accounts for that year from the QIA until mid July.

Student Loans Company: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the level of debt which will be owed to the Student Loans Company in each of the next five years. [200282]

Bill Rammell: The estimated amount of outstanding publicly owned student loans at the end of each of the next five financial years is:

End of financial year	*Total outstanding (£ billion) (rounded to nearest £ billion)*
2008-09	27
2009-10	31
2010-11	36
2011-12	41
2012-13	46

Note:
The amounts include those taken out by English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students studying in England, as well as Mortgage Style (MS) loans taken out by English and Welsh domiciled students studying in the UK.

There will be steady growth in the total value of outstanding loans over the next five years, with estimated repayment levels being lower than the estimated value of new loans. Several years further into the future, the income contingent repayment (ICR) loans system will be fully mature and there will be consistent numbers of borrowers studying, repaying, completing repayment and having loans cancelled after 25 years. At that stage, the total value of loans in real terms is expected to peak.

These amounts include all ICR loans and do not take account of potential future sales of loans to the private sector. They include Mortgage Style loans, except those that were sold to the private sector in 1998 and 1999.

Students: Grants

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of undergraduate part-time students in England were ineligible for a fee grant solely because *(a)* they already had a Level 4 qualification, *(b)* they were studying for less than 50 per cent. of a full-time course and *(c)* their income was assessed as too high, in the last year for which figures are available. [200289]

Bill Rammell: Information on the sole reason for a student being ineligible for a fee grant is not available. Some students are not eligible for more than one reason.

Part-time English domiciled undergraduate students who already have a level 4 qualification or are studying at less than 50 per cent. intensity, academic year 2006/07

	Students
Already have Level 4 qualification and studying at 50 per cent. or more intensity	87,800
Without previous Level 4 qualification and studying at less than 50 per cent. intensity	119,400
Already have Level 4 qualification and studying at less than 50 per cent. intensity	133,100

The number of part-time students ineligible for a fee grant solely because their income was assessed as too high is not available.

Training: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether responsibility for funding the 14 to 19 foundation learning tier will be transferred to local authorities in 2010-11. [202434]

Bill Rammell: The responsibilities for planning, commissioning and funding of 16-18 provision will transfer to local authorities from 2010-11. The proposals for how the new system will operate are set on in the White Paper 'Raising Expectations; enabling the system to deliver' which is currently out for consultation until the 9 June. These proposals will play a critical role in helping to deliver our ambition to increase the participation age to 18 by 2015 and delivering the full range of entitlements to Diplomas, Apprenticeships and the Foundation Learning Tier. Local authorities are in the best place to lead the implementation of the new participation age locally. They are already responsible for schools and are taking responsibility for advising young people.

We are now proposing to give them new responsibilities to ensure that there is the right range of provision in place for young people to continue in education or training until age 19. In doing so, we are making sure that they have the ability to deliver in full the new curriculum and qualifications entitlement for young people, and to raise standards.

United Kingdom Accreditation Service: Grayling Political Strategy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what payments *(a)* the United Kingdom Accreditation Service and *(b)* UFi made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202264]

Mr. Lammy: The United Kingdom Accreditation Service is a private company and I do not have detailed information about their payments to Grayling Political Strategy. However, I understand they pay them approximately £12,000 per annum for general political monitoring services. The payments made by UFI at this level of detail are not collected by my Department.

This is an operational matter for UFI since they determine any payments to local providers, partners and other organisations that are necessary to support the delivery of the UFI's key priorities and targets. Sarah Jones, UFI's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with further information. A copy of her reply will be placed in the House Library.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of childcare staff in England had childcare qualifications which were obtained overseas in each of the last five years. [202876]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff qualifications that are relevant to working with children and young people. The percentage of paid staff in England holding an overseas qualification for each year available is shown in the following table.

Table 1: proportion of all paid staff holding an overseas qualification

Percentage

	2005	*2006*
Full day care	<0.5	<0.5
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	<0.5
Sessional	<0.5	<0.5
After school clubs	n/a	<0.5
Holiday clubs	n/a	<0.5
Childminders	n/a	<0.5
Nursery schools	n/a	<0.5
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	n/a	1
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	n/a	0

Notes:
1. Children's centres were included in the survey for the first time in 2006; therefore data is not available for previous years.
2. After school and holiday clubs were sampled differently in 2005 and comparable figures for this year are not available.
3. Early years settings in maintained schools were not included in the 2005 survey.

Children: Obesity

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children aged between *(a)* two and 15 and *(b)* 10 and 15 were estimated to be obese in each year from 1990 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [200994]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the exact format requested.

Data on the prevalence of obesity among children aged two to 10, 11 to 15, and two to 15 between 1995 and 2006 can be found in the "Health Survey for England 2006 latest trends", published 31 January 2008. The data are presented in table 4 (obesity) of the "Children trend tables 2006". Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Information on the proportion of children who are obese in the age range 10 to 15, and for the years 1990 to 1994 and 2007 to 2008 are not available.

Food: Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers are qualified to teach food technology. [203148]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not currently available.

Gifted and Talented Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools are not taking part in the gifted and talented programme. [203147]

Jim Knight: Provisional data from the January 2008 school census shows that the percentage of schools identifying gifted and talented learners has increased by 3 per cent. in the secondary sector and 11 per cent. in the primary sector to 94 per cent. and 76 per cent. respectively. This shows continued strong progress towards the target for having all schools identifying gifted and talented learners by 2010.

Head teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average age of *(a)* primary school and *(b)* secondary school head teachers was in each year since 1997. [203224]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average age of full-time head teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England, March 1997 to 2006.

The average age of full-time head teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England, March 1997 to 2006.

	Nursery/Primary	*Secondary*
March		
1997	48	49
1998	48	49
1999	48	50
2000	49	50
2001	49	50
2002	49	50
2003	50	51
2004	50	50
2005	50	51
2006	50	51

Source: Database of Teacher Records

Music: Wider Opportunities Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department has taken to build on the Wider Opportunities programme; [203009]

(2) how many pilot schemes were set up as part of the Wider Opportunities programme; how long the pilots lasted; and how many pilots are in operation; [203019]

(3) what funding his Department provided for the Wider Opportunities music programme in each year since 2003; [203013]

(4) what the status of the Wider Opportunities music programme is; and what plans there are for extending it beyond its pilot areas. [203018]

Jim Knight: There were 13 Wider Opportunities pilot authorities: Barking and Dagenham, Croydon, Devon, Haringey, Hertfordshire, Kirklees, Manchester, Newham, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Portsmouth and Staffordshire. All of the pilot authorities have learnt from their experience and are continuing to address the objectives of giving as many pupils as possible access to free instrumental tuition during key stage 2 care, which Ofsted[1] recommended should last for at least one year.

In 2003-04 each local authority received an additional £10,000 in its Standards Fund allocation for music specifically to support activities linked to wider opportunities at key stage 2. These additional payments of £10,000 were also made in 2005-06 and 2006-07. In 2006-07 a further £3 million was allocated nationally to support wider opportunities work, with £23 million allocated for this purpose in 2007-08. These allocations were shared on a formula based on the number of key stage 2 pupils with a weighting for social disadvantage. For 2008 to 2011 the Standards Fund Music Grant still includes a formula based sum (£23 million a year) to enhance access to instrumental and vocal opportunities at key stage 2.

Since 2006 "Wider Opportunities" has come to be used to describe not a single model but rather a number of models which deliver instrumental and vocal tuition across whole class and year groups. Guidance for schools on instrumental and vocal tuition at key stage 2 was produced in March 2006 and updated[2] in September 2007.

We continue to support the objectives of widening musical opportunities for children and young people, and announced a record £332 million investment for music in schools on 21 November 2007. Our aspiration, as set out in the Standards Fund guidance sent to directors of Children Services in December 2007, is that by 2011 programmes will be in place that will result in every child having the opportunity to learn a musical instrument for free, normally in a large group or whole class setting, for at least one year.

[1] "Tuning in: wider opportunities in specialist instrumental tuition for pupils in key stage 2" March 2004.

[2] Available on teachernet: http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFES-0184-2006&

Pre-School Education: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 315W, what the findings were from the June 2007 School Funding Reforms analyses into the cost of delivering the free entitlement in private voluntary and independent nurseries; what the findings of these analyses were; and if he will place in the Library the analyses. [202909]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally. As part of the package of reforms to early years funding which we announced in June last year we asked local authorities to undertake an analysis of the cost of delivering the free early education in the private, voluntary and independent sector specifically to inform local budget setting for 2008 to 2011. Local authorities will use their local analyses to inform the development of a single funding formula for delivery of the free entitlement in their authority by 2010.

Primary Education

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools there were in each local authority area in England in each year since 1996-97. [202965]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number of primary schools: 1997 to 2007, by local authority area and Government Office Region in England

		2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
	England	17,361	17,504	17,642	17,762	17,861	17,985	18,069	18,158	18,234
	North East	918	930	938	949	959	971	978	982	986
841	Darlington	30	30	32	34	35	35	35	38	38
840	Durham	236	241	241	243	244	247	247	247	249
390	Gateshead	73	75	75	75	75	75	75	76	76
805	Hartlepool	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
806	Middlesbrough	42	42	42	42	45	47	47	47	47
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	72	72	72	72	72	73	76	76	77
392	North Tyneside	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
929	Northumberland	138	138	141	141	143	143	143	142	142
807	Redcar and Cleveland	45	47	49	50	52	52	52	53	53
393	South Tyneside	51	53	53	54	55	56	56	57	57
808	Stockton-on-Tees	62	62	63	64	63	64	65	64	64
394	Sunderland	83	84	84	88	89	93	96	96	97
	North West	2,554	2,581	2,614	2,639	2,662	2,699	2,722	2,738	2,761
889	Blackburn with Darwen	56	56	57	58	58	59	59	59	60

Number of primary schools: 1997 to 2007, by local authority area and Government Office Region in England

		2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
890	Blackpool	29	30	32	32	32	32	33	33	33
350	Bolton	98	99	99	100	102	105	105	105	105
351	Bury	63	63	63	63	68	69	69	70	70
875	Cheshire	275	280	284	286	289	289	289	290	292
909	Cumbria	279	281	285	288	289	293	295	296	298
876	Halton	52	52	52	52	52	52	54	55	55
340	Knowsley	55	59	59	59	59	60	60	60	60
888	Lancashire	486	487	489	492	493	499	500	502	505
341	Liverpool	135	135	135	138	144	150	156	157	160
352	Manchester	133	135	136	137	139	141	146	150	157
353	Oldham	94	94	94	95	97	100	101	101	101
354	Rochdale	71	73	74	75	75	75	76	76	76
355	Salford	83	83	83	84	84	84	85	86	86
343	Sefton	78	80	88	89	89	90	91	60	93
342	St. Helens	54	56	56	58	58	59	59	92	62
356	Stockport	92	92	99	101	101	101	102	103	105
357	Tameside	75	75	76	76	77	79	79	79	79
358	Trafford	72	73	73	73	73	75	76	76	76
877	Warrington	71	71	71	71	71	74	74	75	75
359	Wigan	105	107	108	111	111	112	112	112	112
344	Wirral	98	100	101	101	101	101	101	101	101
	Yorkshire and the Humber	1,872	1,891	1,905	1,921	1,934	1,949	1,961	1,970	1,981
370	Barnsley	82	82	85	85	85	85	87	87	88
380	Bradford	158	159	159	159	158	158	157	163	165
381	Calderdale	85	85	85	87	87	88	88	89	89
371	Doncaster	103	103	103	104	108	110	113	113	113
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	132	133	134	135	136	135	135	135	135
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	71	77	77	77	78	79	80	80	81
382	Kirklees	151	151	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
383	Leeds	222	225	230	241	241	244	244	244	244
812	North East Lincolnshire	59	59	59	59	60	60	61	62	65
813	North Lincolnshire	66	67	67	68	69	69	69	69	69
815	North Yorkshire	326	328	329	329	329	329	329	328	328
372	Rotherham	103	104	106	106	108	108	110	110	111
373	Sheffield	136	140	140	140	142	147	147	148	149
384	Wakefield	124	124	125	125	127	128	130	130	130
816	York	54	54	54	54	54	57	59	60	62
	East Midlands	1,696	1,708	1,725	1,729	1,732	1,740	1,746	1,750	1,751
831	Derby	78	78	78	80	81	81	80	81	81
830	Derbyshire	358	358	358	358	359	361	361	362	363
856	Leicester	84	85	86	86	86	86	87	87	87
855	Leicestershire	225	226	226	226	226	227	227	228	228
925	Lincolnshire	285	286	288	289	289	289	289	289	289
928	Northamptonshire	265	268	272	271	269	269	270	270	269
892	Nottingham	92	93	98	98	99	101	101	101	101
891	Nottinghamshire	292	297	302	304	306	309	313	314	315
857	Rutland	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	18
	West Midlands	1,829	1,854	1,874	1,892	1,907	1,921	1,932	1,949	1,964
330	Birmingham	299	302	305	311	321	322	323	328	332
331	Coventry	85	85	86	86	87	89	89	89	89
332	Dudley	78	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
884	Herefordshire*	82	83	84	84	84	85	85	85	85
333	Sandwell	96	97	99	99	99	100	101	102	105
893	Shropshire	142	143	143	143	143	144	144	144	145
334	Solihull	67	67	67	67	68	68	68	68	68
860	Staffordshire	301	306	308	311	311	312	312	313	316
861	Stoke-on-Trent	71	71	74	76	80	83	86	88	88
894	Telford and Wrekin	57	61	64	66	66	65	65	66	66
335	Walsall	86	90	93	93	94	94	94	96	100

Number of primary schools: 1997 to 2007, by local authority area and Government Office Region in England

		2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
937	Warwickshire	196	196	197	198	197	197	199	200	200
336	Wolverhampton	80	80	80	82	82	87	88	91	91
885	Worcestershire*	189	191	192	192	193	193	196	197	197
	East of England	2,059	2,065	2,076	2,085	2,101	2,105	2,114	2,127	2,125
820	Bedfordshire	146	146	146	146	148	148	148	147	147
873	Cambridgeshire	201	203	202	202	204	205	206	207	205
881	Essex	473	474	474	474	477	479	484	490	488
919	Hertfordshire	407	408	416	418	421	422	425	426	426
821	Luton	54	57	57	58	61	61	61	65	66
926	Norfolk	384	385	385	385	386	386	387	389	390
874	Peterborough	58	58	58	59	59	58	58	57	57
882	Southend-on-Sea	37	37	39	40	42	42	43	43	43
935	Suffolk	256	254	254	256	255	256	255	256	256
883	Thurrock	43	43	45	47	48	48	47	47	47
	London	1,823	1,831	1,836	1,849	1,862	1,879	1,888	1,899	1,912
	Inner London	695	695	697	702	708	715	719	726	734
202	Camden	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	42	42
201	City of London	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
204	Hackney	53	54	55	54	56	57	58	58	57
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	35	35	35	35	35	36	36	36	36
309	Haringey	63	63	63	66	66	67	67	70	72
206	Islington	45	45	45	47	47	49	49	49	51
207	Kensington and Chelsea	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
208	Lambeth	60	59	59	59	61	63	65	67	70
209	Lewisham	69	69	69	69	70	70	70	70	70
316	Newham	66	66	66	66	66	65	64	64	63
210	Southwark	71	71	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
211	Tower Hamlets	69	69	69	69	70	72	73	73	75
212	Wandsworth	56	56	56	57	57	57	57	58	59
213	Westminster	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
	Outer London	1,128	1,136	1,139	1,147	1,154	1,164	1,169	1,173	1,178
301	Barking and Dagenham	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	50
302	Barnet	87	88	89	91	91	91	90	90	91
303	Bexley	59	59	59	61	63	63	63	63	64
304	Brent	59	61	60	60	60	60	60	59	60
305	Bromley	77	77	77	78	78	78	78	78	78
306	Croydon	91	91	92	93	94	94	94	94	95
307	Ealing	64	64	64	65	65	65	65	65	65
308	Enfield	66	67	67	66	65	65	65	66	66
203	Greenwich	64	64	64	64	64	65	67	69	69
310	Harrow	54	55	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
311	Havering	65	65	65	65	65	67	67	68	69
312	Hillingdon	65	65	66	66	66	67	67	67	66
313	Hounslow	60	60	60	60	60	60	64	64	64
314	Kingston upon Thames	36	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
315	Merton	43	43	43	43	43	49	49	49	49
317	Redbridge	50	51	51	51	51	51	51	52	52
318	Richmond upon Thames	41	41	41	41	41	39	39	39	39
319	Sutton	41	41	41	41	42	43	43	43	43
320	Waltham Forest	57	58	58	60	64	65	65	65	65
	South East	2,670	2,690	2,700	2,717	2,719	2,730	2,736	2,744	2,749
867	Bracknell Forest	30	30	31	32	32	33	33	33	33
846	Brighton and Hove	56	56	56	56	56	56	58	58	61
825	Buckinghamshire	184	185	185	185	185	190	192	195	199
845	East Sussex	156	156	156	156	156	156	155	155	155
850	Hampshire	430	433	434	437	437	438	438	439	439
921	Isle of Wight	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
886	Kent	466	470	474	474	475	476	476	475	474
887	Medway	85	86	88	88	89	90	89	89	88

Number of primary schools: 1997 to 2007, by local authority area and Government Office Region in England

		2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
826	Milton Keynes	90	91	89	88	86	86	84	86	84
931	Oxfordshire	233	233	234	234	233	233	234	233	233
851	Portsmouth	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
870	Reading	37	37	37	38	38	38	39	39	39
871	Slough	27	27	27	29	29	29	30	31	31
852	Southampton	61	63	63	63	64	65	65	67	69
936	Surrey	314	318	319	323	324	324	327	327	328
869	West Berkshire	66	66	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
938	West Sussex	240	242	242	249	249	249	249	250	248
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	45	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
872	Wokingham	51	52	52	52	53	54	54	54	55
	South West	1,940	1,954	1,974	1,981	1,985	1,991	1,992	1,999	2,005
800	Bath and North East Somerset	63	64	68	68	68	68	69	69	69
837	Bournemouth	27	27	27	27	28	28	28	28	28
801	Bristol, City of	111	118	118	118	118	119	119	121	123
908	Cornwall	238	239	241	242	243	245	245	245	244
878	Devon	318	318	321	322	323	323	323	324	323
835	Dorset	136	137	138	138	139	139	138	138	138
916	Gloucestershire	250	250	252	252	252	252	254	254	254
420	Isles of Scilly	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	4
802	North Somerset	66	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	66
879	Plymouth	76	76	78	78	78	79	79	80	80
836	Poole	28	29	29	30	30	30	30	30	30
933	Somerset	223	223	224	224	223	223	224	224	224
803	South Gloucestershire	96	96	96	98	98	98	98	97	100
866	Swindon	67	67	67	67	66	66	66	70	71
880	Torbay	32	32	33	33	33	33	33	33	34
865	Wiltshire	208	212	216	218	220	219	217	217	217

		1998	1997
	England	18,312	18,392
	North East	994	1,000
841	Darlington	38	
840	Durham	251	289
390	Gateshead	77	79
805	Hartlepool	30	30
806	Middlesbrough	48	49
391	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	77	78
392	North Tyneside	57	57
929	Northumberland	143	143
807	Redcar and Cleveland	54	54
393	South Tyneside	57	58
808	Stockton-on-Tees	65	66
394	Sunderland	97	97
	North West	2,780	2805
350	Bolton	105	105
351	Bury	70	70
875	Cheshire	425	429
909	Cumbria	299	300
340	Knowsley	62	63
888	Lancashire	597	597
341	Liverpool	166	171
352	Manchester	160	168
353	Oldham	101	102
354	Rochdale	76	76
355	Salford	87	88
343	Sefton	93	93
342	St Helens	62	62
356	Stockport	106	107
357	Tameside	79	80
358	Trafford	76	76
359	Wigan	114	116
344	Wirral	102	102
	Yorkshire and Humber	1,984	1,991
370	Barnsley	88	90
380	Bradford	165	165
381	Calderdale	89	90
371	Doncaster	113	113
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	135	135
810	Kingston-Upon-Hull	80	80
382	Kirklees	153	153
383	Leeds	245	245
812	North East Lincolnshire	65	65
813	North Lincolnshire	69	71
815	North Yorkshire	328	328
372	Rotherham	112	114
373	Sheffield	149	149
384	Wakefield	131	131
816	York	62	62
	East Midlands	1,751	1,754
831	Derby	81	

		1998	1997
830	Derbyshire	363	448
856	Leicester City	86	
855	Leicestershire	228	332
925	Lincolnshire	289	289
928	Northamptonshire	269	258
891	Nottinghamshire	417	417
857	Rutland	18	
	West Midlands	1,971	1,979
330	Birmingham	332	332
331	Coventry	89	89
332	Dudley	82	82
884	Hereford and Worcester	281	282
333	Sandwell	107	111
893	Shropshire	210	210
334	Solihull	69	70
860	Staffordshire	319	407
861	Stoke	88	
335	Walsall	102	102
937	Warwickshire	200	200
336	Wolverhampton	92	94
	Eastern	2,132	2,130
820	Bedfordshire	147	215
873	Cambridgeshire	263	263
881	Essex	581	577
919	Hertfordshire	427	428
821	Luton	68	
926	Norfolk	390	391
935	Suffolk	256	256
	London	1,927	1,943
	Inner London	745	755
202	Camden	42	42
201	City of London	1	1
204	Hackney	57	58
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	37	37
309	Haringey	74	76
206	Islington	54	56
207	Kensington and Chelsea	26	26
208	Lambeth	70	76
209	Lewisham	70	70
316	Newham	64	64
210	Southwark	73	72
211	Tower Hamlets	76	76
212	Wandsworth	60	60
213	Westminster	41	41
	Outer London	1,182	1,188
301	Barking and Dagenham	51	52
302	Barnet	91	90
303	Bexley	64	64
304	Brent	59	60
305	Bromley	78	78
306	Croydon	96	97
307	Ealing	65	66
308	Enfield	65	66
203	Greenwich	70	72
310	Harrow	55	55
311	Havering	71	71
312	Hillingdon	68	69
313	Hounslow	64	64
314	Kingston-upon-Thames	37	37
315	Merton	49	49
317	Redbridge	52	53
318	Richmond-upon-Thames	39	39
319	Sutton	43	42
320	Waltham Forest	65	64
	South East	2,754	2,765
846	Brighton and Hove	61	
825	Buckinghamshire	201	285
845	East Sussex	155	218
850	Hampshire	439	563
921	Isle of Wight	46	46
886	Kent	564	564
826	Milton Keynes	85	
931	Oxfordshire	234	239
851	Portsmouth	53	
852	Southampton	69	
936	Surrey	328	330
869	Berkshire	272	273
938	West Sussex	247	247
	South West	2,019	2,025
800	Bath and NE Somerset	69	69
837	Bournemouth	28	
801	City of Bristol	132	132
908	Cornwall	244	245
878	Devon	437	439
835	Dorset	138	195
916	Gloucestershire	255	257
420	Isles of Scilly	4	4
802	North Somerset	66	67
836	Poole	30	
933	Somerset	225	225
803	South Gloucestershire	99	99
866	Swindon	72	
865	Wiltshire	220	293

[1] Local authorities listed for each year.

Note:

Due to local government reorganisation between 1998 and 1999 local boundaries are not comparable throughout.

Primary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of children who completed Key Stage 2 with adequate levels of literacy and numeracy; and if he will make a statement. [201114]

Jim Knight: Levels of literacy and numeracy in primary school leavers are most commonly measured by the proportions of children gaining National Curriculum level 4 and above in English and mathematics, since these represent the expected national standard. Children who reach Level 3 of the National Curriculum are assessed as having effective skills in English and mathematics and can demonstrate a good standard of reading and mental addition and subtraction. They are able to read a range of texts accurately independently, tackle unfamiliar

words, discuss their mathematical work and begin to explain their thinking. Children achieving Level 4 have access to more complex forms of language and more complex ideas. They develop their own strategies for solving problems and are using these strategies both in working within mathematics and in applying mathematics to practical contexts.

Achievement of the target Level 4 provides children with a solid foundation in learning from which to access the full secondary curriculum—79 per cent. of pupils who achieved Level 4 (in a combination of English, Mathematics and Science) at Key Stage 2 in 2002 went on to get five or more good GCSEs in 2007.

The Department's new Public Service Agreements published as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2007 have a dual focus on ensuring that pupils reach the levels expected for their age in both English and mathematics (threshold targets) and improving the rates of progress made by pupils from ages 5-16 (new progression targets) with increased attention to achieving faster progress for underachieving groups such as children in care and minority ethnic pupils. The progression targets will be a major factor in helping all pupils—regardless of their background and circumstances—to realise their potential in English and mathematics in particular.

Information on the attainment of pupils in Key Stage 2 English and mathematics tests since 1994-1995 is shown in the following table:

Pupil attainment in Key Stage 2 English tests:

Percentage of pupils at each level

	A	*T/D*	*B*	*N*	*W*[1]	*1*[1]	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*[1]	*Total*	*% at Level 3 or above*	*% at Level 4 or above*
1995	4	0	—	0	0	1	7	39	41	7	0	100	88	49
1996	3	0	—	2	0	1	6	30	45	12	0	100	87	57
1997	3	0	4	2	—	—	1	26	48	16	0	100	89	63
1998	2	0	4	2	—	—	1	26	48	17	0	100	91	65
1999	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	20	48	22	0	100	91	71
2000	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	17	46	29	0	100	92	75
2001	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	17	46	29	0	100	92	75
2002	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	17	46	29	0	100	92	75
2003	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	16	48	27	—	100	91	75
2004	1	0	4	2	—	—	1	14	50	27	—	100	92	78
2005	1	0	4	2	—	—	1	14	52	27	—	100	93	79
2006	1	0	4	1	—	—	1	14	47	32	—	100	93	79
2007	1	0	4	1	1	—	1	13	47	34	—	100	93	80

Pupil attainment in Key Stage 2 Mathematics tests:

Percentage of pupils at each level

	A	*T/D*	*B*	*N*	*W*[1]	*1*[1]	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*[1]	*Total*	*% at Level 3 or above*	*% at Level 4 or above*
1995	4	0		5	0	1	7	37	31	12	0	100	82	45
1996	3	0		2	0	1	5	34	40	1	0	100	88	54
1997	3	0	3	2	—	—	2	28	44	18	0	100	90	62
1998	2	0	3	3	—	—	1	31	42	17	0	100	90	59
1999	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	23	45	24	0	100	92	69
2000	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	21	47	24	0	100	93	72
2001	1	0	2	2	—	—	1	22	45	25	0	100	93	71
2002	1	1	2	2	—	—	1	20	46	27	0	100	93	73
2003	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	19	44	29	—	100	92	73
2004	1	0	3	2	—	—	1	19	43	31	—	100	93	74
2005	1	0	3	2	—	—	1	18	44	31	—	100	93	75
2006	1	0	3	2	—	—	1	17	43	33	—	100	93	76
2007	1	0	3	2	—	—	1	16	45	32	—	100	93	77

[1] Levels W and 1 were valid in 1995 and 1996 only. Level 6 was valid from 1995 - 2002 only. A represents pupils who were absent. T represents pupils working at the level of the assessment but unable to access the test. D represents pupils disapplied from teacher assessment. B represents pupils who were assessed by teacher assessment only. N represents pupils who took the tests but failed to register a Level. W represents pupils who are "working towards" Level 1 but have not yet achieved the standards needed for Level 1.

Note:

Data cover all schools entering pupils for KS2 tests.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average expenditure from the public purse was per pupil on *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* pre-school education in each parliamentary constituency in the North West in each year since 1997; [202732]

(2) what the average public expenditure per pupil on education was in each parliamentary constituency in the North West in each year since 1997. [202733]

Jim Knight: The available information is contained within the tables. There are two breaks in the time series because of changes to data collection: 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the CLG (formally ODPM) to the section 52 form from the DCSF (formally DFES). 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the blank columns. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990s and those LAs that did not exist either pre or post LGR are shaded out for those years.

(a) Pre-primary and primary school based expenditure per pupil for 1997-98 to 2006-07

£

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained pre-primary and primary schools

Local authority name	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North West and Merseyside LAs										
Blackburn and Darwen	—	1,840	2,120	2,410	2,750	—	—	—	—	—
Blackpool	—	1,690	1,890	2,210	2,450	—	—	—	—	—
Bolton	1,750	2,000	2,030	2,290	2,560	—	—	—	—	—
Bury	1,490	1,640	1,800	2,040	2,220	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	1,770	1,790	1,900	2,100	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	1,860	1,880	2,070	2,270	2,550	—	—	—	—	—
Halton	—	1,870	2,090	2,130	2,630	—	—	—	—	—
Knowsley	1,700	1,870	2,120	2,350	2,580	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	1,820	1,980	2,220	2,530	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	1,660	1,840	1,980	2,580	2,860	—	—	—	—	—
Manchester	1,620	1,740	1,950	2,280	2,680	—	—	—	—	—
Oldham	1,650	1,820	2,100	2,190	2,630	—	—	—	—	—
Pre LGR Cheshire	1,710	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pre LGR Lancashire	1,670	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rochdale	1,680	1,770	1,960	2,270	2,570	—	—	—	—	—
Salford	1,560	1,630	2,010	2,380	2,630	—	—	—	—	—
Sefton	1,590	1,670	1,850	2,080	2,290	—	—	—	—	—
St. Helens	1,600	1,700	2,030	2,240	2,470	—	—	—	—	—
Stockport	1,570	1,750	1,890	2,230	2,410	—	—	—	—	—
Tameside	1,590	1,720	1,650	2,010	2,500	—	—	—	—	—
Trafford	1,580	1,710	1,840	2,220	2,400	—	—	—	—	—
Warrington	—	1,740	1,900	1,990	2,250	—	—	—	—	—
Wigan	1,520	1,610	1,920	2,340	2,500	—	—	—	—	—
Wirral	1,600	1,810	1,840	2,060	2,450	—	—	—	—	—

(b) Primary school based expenditure per pupil for 1999-2000 to 2006-07

£

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained primary schools

Local authority name	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North West and Merseyside LAs										
Blackburn and Darwen	—	—	2,000	2,260	2,560	2,540	2,730	2,910	3,170	3,360
Blackpool	—	—	1,870	2,200	2,390	2,370	2,660	2,880	3,130	3,340
Bolton	—	—	2,000	2,260	2,500	2,410	2,620	2,760	3,010	3,200
Bury	—	—	1,780	2,010	2,180	2,220	2,460	2,660	2,850	3,000

(b) Primary school based expenditure per pupil for 1999-2000 to 2006-07

£

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained primary schools

Local authority name	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Cheshire	—	—	1,780	1,880	2,060	2,340	2,540	2,640	2,880	3,190
Cumbria	—	—	2,050	2,240	2,550	2,560	2,740	2,870	3,180	3,360
Halton	—	—	2,030	2,110	2,560	2,580	2,740	2,910	3,260	3,430
Knowsley	—	—	2,120	2,300	2,510	2,620	2,850	3,010	3,230	3,330
Lancashire	—	—	1,950	2,160	2,450	2,520	2,780	2,900	3,160	3,300
Liverpool	—	—	1,970	2,540	2,770	2,720	2,970	3,100	3,260	3,610
Manchester	—	—	1,920	2,250	2,650	2,740	2,930	3,030	3,220	3,420
Oldham	—	—	2,040	2,090	2,500	2,430	2,600	2,740	2,930	3,220
Pre LGR Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pre LGR Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rochdale	—	—	1,900	2,100	2,420	2,370	2,760	2,910	3,190	3,450
Salford	—	—	1,990	2,300	2,560	2,480	2,830	2,920	3,110	3,350
Sefton	—	—	1,840	2,050	2,240	2,530	2,830	2,980	3,130	3,330
St. Helens	—	—	2,000	2,190	2,410	2,500	2,590	2,790	2,990	3,220
Stockport	—	—	1,860	2,180	2,370	2,260	2,460	2,720	2,900	3,130
Tameside	—	—	1,640	1,970	2,420	2,480	2,610	2,750	2,930	3,160
Trafford	—	—	1,830	2,190	2,360	2,250	2,390	2,500	2,650	2,850
Warrington	—	—	1,880	1,980	2,220	2,270	2,510	2,630	2,830	3,000
Wigan	—	—	1,900	2,330	2,480	2,400	2,620	2,780	3,030	3,250
Wirral	—	—	1,810	2,030	2,400	2,520	2,640	2,730	2,960	3,190

(c) Secondary school based expenditure per pupil for 1997-98 to 2006-07

£

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained secondary schools

Local authority name	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North West and Merseyside LAs										
Blackburn and Darwen	—	2,470	2,750	2,960	3,260	3,300	3,710	4,070	4,360	4,680
Blackpool	—	2,260	2,420	2,750	3,030	2,880	3,370	3,690	4,010	4,130
Bolton	2,330	2,480	2,630	2,840	3,140	3,010	3,440	3,660	3,950	4,410
Bury	2,160	2,330	2,500	2,650	2,810	2,900	3,240	3,540	3,840	4,040
Cheshire	—	2,360	2,490	2,450	2,890	2,990	3,280	3,460	3,760	4,060
Cumbria	2,500	2,570	2,600	2,800	3,300	3,290	3,540	3,630	4,050	4,180
Halton		2,470	2,650	2,620	3,380	3,440	3,690	4,040	4,590	4,650
Knowsley	2,260	2,650	2,880	3,060	3,190	3,590	3,880	4,100	4,570	4,760
Lancashire	—	2,450	2,550	2,740	3,070	3,060	3,360	3,610	3,940	4,150
Liverpool	2,370	2,460	2,610	3,390	3,720	3,630	3,840	3,960	4,180	4,780
Manchester	2,450	2,560	2,800	3,080	3,480	3,770	4,030	4,190	4,390	4,770
Oldham	2,300	2,490	2,650	2,850	3,320	3,380	3,790	4,070	4,300	4,560
Pre LGR Cheshire	2,310	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pre LGR Lancashire	2,400	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rochdale	2,400	2,430	2,560	2,930	3,220	3,230	3,640	3,850	4,140	4,530
Salford	2,330	2,380	2,770	3,150	3,510	3,300	3,730	4,000	4,270	4,560
Sefton	2,260	2,420	2,550	2,800	3,090	3,320	3,720	3,960	4,230	4,440
St. Helens	2,270	2,390	2,680	2,830	3,170	3,340	3,630	4,000	4,200	4,430
Stockport	2,110	2,330	2,460	2,820	3,040	2,890	3,130	3,370	3,790	3,980

(c) Secondary school based expenditure per pupil for 1997-98 to 2006-07

£

	School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained secondary schools									
Local authority name	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Tameside	2,190	2,290	2,300	2,500	2,930	2,930	3,260	3,480	3,740	4,000
Trafford	2,300	2,570	2,620	2,920	3,170	3,130	3,330	3,570	3,810	4,120
Warrington	—	2,330	2,490	2,660	2,910	3,030	3,400	3,560	3,840	4,090
Wigan	2,310	2,420	2,600	2,830	3,130	3,130	3,460	3,710	3,960	4,340
Wirral	2,360	2,450	2,550	2,820	3,170	3,290	3,640	3,920	4,130	4,430

Combined local authority and school based expenditure per pupil by local authorities in the North West and Merseyside region for 1997-98 to 2006-07

£

	Combined local authority and school based expenditure per pupil									
Local authority name	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North West and Merseyside LAs										
Blackburn and Darwen	—	2,910	2,990	3,210	3,520	3,620	3,990	4,240	4,850	5,100
Blackpool	—	2,570	2,630	2,760	3,140	3,240	3,750	4,200	4,540	4,660
Bolton	2,500	2,740	2,680	2,900	3,190	3,330	3,750	4,010	4,300	4,600
Bury	2,440	2,550	2,640	2,770	2,980	3,070	3,550	3,790	4,220	4,450
Cheshire	—	2,700	2,690	2,830	3,140	3,320	3,580	3,760	4,150	4,480
Cumbria	2,800	2,920	2,700	2,830	3,230	3,430	3,980	4,340	4,350	4,760
Halton	—	2,730	2,840	2,730	3,360	3,500	4,180	4,470	4,920	5,020
Knowsley	2,540	2,780	2,910	3,180	3,340	3,620	4,090	4,350	4,660	4,920
Lancashire	—	2,830	2,750	2,880	3,210	3,260	3,870	4,030	4,540	4,630
Liverpool	2,660	2,840	2,920	3,400	3,780	3,870	5,070	4,940	5,160	5,448
Manchester	2,810	3,020	3,090	3,360	3,840	3,820	4,570	4,710	4,930	5,410
Oldham	2,480	2,670	2,770	2,950	3,310	3,510	3,900	4,090	4,350	4,540
Pre LGR Cheshire	2,560	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pre LGR Lancashire	2,690	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rochdale	2,580	2,660	2,650	2,930	3,190	3,340	4,040	4,270	4,680	5,010
Salford	2,720	2,820	2,830	3,050	3,370	3,450	4,080	4,360	4,720	5,260
Sefton	2,690	2,770	2,760	2,950	3,270	3,480	3,840	4,080	4,340	4,680
St. Helens	2,570	2,750	2,790	2,990	3,310	2,760	3,880	4,200	4,400	4,610
Stockport	2,430	2,650	2,580	2,830	3,040	3,090	3,430	3,720	4,010	4,290
Tameside	2,400	2,540	2,600	2,850	3,200	3,250	3,630	3,760	4,020	4,370
Trafford	2,490	2,690	2,640	2,900	3,190	3,300	3,610	3,410	3,850	4,360
Warrington	—	2,310	2,510	2,700	2,960	3,200	3,450	3,550	3,910	4,110
Wigan	2,480	2,670	2,640	2,840	3,190	3,420	3,760	4,000	4,250	4,530
Wirral	2,590	2,770	2,790	3,010	3,380	3,690	3,930	4,080	4,360	4,720

Schools: Inspections

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the current Ofsted inspection cycle is for schools; how this varies for high and low performing schools; what plans there are to change the inspection cycle; and if he will make a statement. [203086]

Jim Knight: The current school inspection cycle began in September 2005. Ofsted is required to inspect each maintained school by 1. August 2009 and, following that inspection, to inspect each such school within three school years from the end of the school year in which the last inspection took place.

Within the cycle, the frequency of inspection is determined by Ofsted. Schools that are judged to require significant improvement are subject to a monitoring visit, which takes place between six and eight months after the relevant inspection, followed by a full inspection after a year. Those schools judged to require special measures receive termly monitoring

visits until they are removed from this category. However, if they remain in special measures for two years they will be re-inspected at that point. In addition, some schools that are judged by Ofsted to be satisfactory overall but with underperformance in some areas of their work receive a monitoring visit between 12 and 18 months after the inspection.

The inspection cycle and other aspects of the school inspection arrangements from September 2009 are currently under review by the Department and Ofsted.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* National Lottery funding and *(b)* Government funding school sport received in each year since 2003-04 for which figures are available, expressed in 2007-08 prices. [203022]

Kevin Brennan: A breakdown of Exchequer funding and Big Lottery investment in England into PE and school sport from 2003-04 to 2007-08 (adjusted to 2007-08 prices) is set out in the following table:

£ million

Financial year	*Lottery*	*DCSF/DCMS Funding*
2003-04	155	116.6
2004-05	353.7	166.3
2005-06	78.9	210
2006-07	31.5	260.4
2007-08	21.5	266.5
Total	640.6	1,019.8

Sure Start Programme: Internet

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the Sure Start budget was spent on updating the Sure Start website in each year for which figures are available. [202835]

Beverley Hughes: The Department spent £71,316 of the £1,329,016,000 Sure Start budget on updating the Sure Start website during the 2006-07 financial year. During the 2007-08 financial year the Department spent £82,834 of the £1,650,397,000 Sure Start budget on updating the website.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on updating the Sure Start website in each of the last five years. [202877]

Beverley Hughes: The Department spent £55,375 on editorial resources and £15,941 on enhancing and developing the Sure Start website during 2006-07, so totalling £71,316 for that financial year. During 2007-08 the Department spent £63,305 on editorial resources and £19,529 on enhancing and developing the website, so totalling £82,834 for that financial year.

Disproportionate costs would be incurred in sourcing and supplying information prior to the 2006-07 financial year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Caleb McCarry

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which representatives of his Department met Mr Caleb McCarry on his recent visit to the UK; and what subjects were discussed at those meetings. [202147]

Meg Munn: Representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Americas Directorate met US-Cuba Transition Co-ordinator, Caleb McCarry, on 15 April 2008 during his recent visit to London. They discussed issues of mutual interest concerning Cuba.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department has been of appealing against freedom of information requests submitted by Nicholas Gilby (EA/2007/71/78/79), including to the Information Tribunal; and how much has been paid to counsel representing his Department. [202720]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not lodged any appeals against any decisions made about freedom of information requests submitted by Nicholas Gilby. Mr. Gilby did, however, appeal three decisions made by the Information Commissioner in relation to his requests for FCO papers that had previously been transferred to the National Archives, which went before the Information Tribunal in March 2008. The FCO does not hold information on the total costs to the taxpayer of Mr. Gilby's appeals in these cases.

European Union: Festivals and Special Occasions

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what events his Department has planned to mark Schuman Day on 9 May 2008. [203200]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As has been the case in previous years, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London has no events planned to mark Europe Day on 9 May. The FCO's network of missions across Europe do participate in Europe Day events in their host countries, respecting local circumstances.

Iran: Human Rights

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent *(a)* assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Iran and *(b)* discussions he has had with the Government of Iran on human rights. [202773]

Dr. Howells: Iran's overall human rights record is poor. We have a number of concerns about human rights violations in Iran, including the increasing use of the death penalty (and its continued use for juvenile offenders) and the growing restrictions on any form of dissent or organised protest. Human rights defenders, women's rights activists, trade unionists, non-governmental organisation workers and students continue to face pressure including intimidation, questioning, arrests and

sentences on charges of 'acting against national security' or 'propaganda against the system'. Newspapers and magazines are regularly closed down and websites blocked for criticising the Government or crossing red lines. Iran's failure to live up to its commitments under the international human rights conventions it has signed up to is particularly disappointing.

We remain committed to supporting international human rights standards in Iran and regularly raise our concerns with the Iranian authorities. We usually raise human rights issues with the Government of Iran through the EU, in order to maximise impact and emphasise that our concerns are shared across a range of countries. So far this year the EU has raised human rights issues with the Iranian authorities at least seven times in meetings and made public statements on a number of issues including individual death sentences, the treatment of members of the Baha'i faith, detained human rights defenders and students, and the draft Islamic penal code. We also discuss human rights issues bilaterally with Iranian officials. Most recently, on 6 March, I issued a statement calling for the release of two detained trade unionists in Iran, and on 1 April I called in the Iranian ambassador to raise our concerns about articles of the draft penal code that would make apostasy punishable by death.

Iran: Oil

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on investments in Iranian oil and gas; and if he will make a statement. [201999]

David Miliband: The UK would prefer a more positive relationship with the Iranian Government including a constructive trade and investment relationship, but Iran has continued to act in ways that make this difficult to achieve. In particular, they have failed to comply with successive UN Security Council Resolutions. We have made clear that it cannot be business as usual and will continue to pursue a dual track approach, involving further sanctions and at the same time encouraging the Iranians to take up the E3+3's generous offer, which we are currently refreshing, as a basis for negotiations. On 17 April, during his visit to the US, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that the UK would seek measures to act against investment in Iran's Liquefied Natural Gas sector. This is one of several options currently under discussion within the EU.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what decisions were reached at the 16 April meeting of the diplomatic political directors of China, the United States, Russia, the UK, France and Germany in Shanghai on *(a)* negotiations with, *(b)* sanctions against and *(c)* revisions to the 6 June 2006 E3+3 proposals on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [202000]

David Miliband: Discussion among the political directors from the E3+3 in Shanghai focused on how best to refresh the June 2006 offer that we made to Iran, as the other Foreign Ministers in the E3+3 and I made clear we would do in our statement marking the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1803 on 3 March 2008. We have made it clear to Iran that our offer of dialogue remains, but that if Iran continues to refuse to comply with the demands of the international community, we will pursue further sanctions, in line with our dual-track policy of pressure and engagement.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received consequent upon the Government's recognition of the unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo. [202127]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Serbian Government have made clear, both orally and in writing, their disagreement with the UK on recognition of Kosovo's independence.

Malaysia: Military Decorations

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the Government of Malaysia on the right of British veterans to wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [202148]

Meg Munn: The Malaysian authorities have raised this issue with us both in London and Kuala Lumpur.

The Permanent Secretary at the Malaysian Ministry of Defence has raised the matter with our High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, and Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib raised the issue of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal with my right hon. Friend the then Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, in November 2006. There were also earlier representations at an official level, both in London between the Malaysian High Commission and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and between senior Malaysian officials and our High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what opportunity the Malaysian authorities were given to express their opinion in consultation before the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals decided that veterans could accept but not wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [202184]

Meg Munn: There were a number of contacts with the Malaysian High Commission on the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal, and the British rules on the acceptance and wear of foreign medals were fully explained.

Military Decorations

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals has ruled that a medal awarded by a foreign Government may be accepted but not worn by British veterans in the last 30 years. [201167]

Meg Munn: The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (HD Committee) recommended in 2006 that veterans should be allowed to accept but not wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal. Similar exceptions were made for the Kuwait and Saudi Arabian Medals following the first Gulf War. Second World War veterans who served in Greece may receive campaign medals from the Greek Government (Greek War Medal and War Star) but permission has not been given to wear the medals. There may be further examples over the last 30 years, but the HD Committee's usual practice is not to recommend acceptance of foreign medals.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many countries award medals to British service *(a)* personnel and *(b)* veterans; and whether their recipients in each instance are permitted to wear the medal. [202149]

Meg Munn: Two countries (the US and Canada) have recently awarded medals to British service personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unrestricted permission to accept and wear foreign awards can be granted to British service personnel on exchange, attachment or loan to a foreign state, who are involved in a military operation or emergency on behalf of that state. The same applies to British service personnel serving in a UK unit in a bilateral force under the command of another country, who render special service to that country's forces in a military operation or emergency. This is consistent with both the five-year rule and the double-medalling rule, which are important in the British honours system.

Overseas Students: Scholarships

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the 2006 review of Chevening scholarships which he has placed in the Library was the same review of scholarship funding to which he referred in his written ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-4WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office scholarships and fellowships. [202691]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The 2006 review of Chevening scholarships was the first of several reviews which led to the changes in Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) scholarships announced by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 13 March. There was an external review of Marshall scholarships completed in February 2007 and a formal internal review of Chevening fellowships completed in September 2007. In the context of the development of its new strategic framework, the FCO looked again at scholarship and fellowship funding in late 2007.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-4WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office scholarships and fellowships, whether he has undertaken separate assessments of the Chevening, Commonwealth and Marshall scholarship programmes. [202692]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 13 March, several reviews led to the changes in Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) scholarships. There was a review of Chevening scholarships in 2006, an external review of Marshall scholarships completed in February 2007 and a formal internal review of Chevening fellowships completed in September 2007. In the context of the development of its new strategic framework, the FCO looked again at scholarship and fellowship funding in late 2007.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written Ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-24WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office scholarships and fellowships, what comparative analysis he has made of his Department's engagement with alumni of his Department's scholarship schemes, including *(a)* Commonwealth scholarships, *(b)* Chevening and *(c)* Marshall programmes; and whether his remarks in the statement on this matter related to all three schemes. [202986]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 13 March, we have not consistently done enough to build the personal relationships with the scholars which we need to get the most out of these schemes. This applies to all three schemes, and as my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also said, we are working hard to improve the ways in which we build links with scholars right from the start of the selection process.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written Ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-24WS, on Foreign and Commonwealth Office scholarships and fellowships, whether his statement, that his Department had pursued high numbers of scholars which had sometimes reduced focus on quality, applied to each scholarship and fellowship scheme. [203004]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 13 March, we found a number of weaknesses in our scholarship schemes. But those weaknesses did not apply equally to all our schemes. The pursuit of numbers, which sometimes led to a reduced focus on quality, is a point which applied to the selection of some Chevening scholars.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-4WS, on FCO scholarships and fellowships, that his Department has not always maintained contact with alumni, applied equally to *(a)* Commonwealth, *(b)* Chevening and *(c)* Marshall scholarships. [203307]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 13 March, *Official Report*, columns 22-24WS), we have not consistently done enough to build the personal relationships with the scholars which we need to get the most out of these schemes. This applies to all three schemes, but as my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also said, we

are working hard to improve the ways in which we build links with scholars right from the start of the selection process.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has assessed the steps taken by the *(a)* Commonwealth scholarship, *(b)* Chevening scholarship and *(c)* Marshall scholarship programmes in maintaining contact with alumni. [203308]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) maintains good contact with Commonwealth scholarship alumni and we would like to work with the CSC to develop links between Chevening and Commonwealth alumni. The Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission and our US posts maintain good contact with Marshall alumni through the Association of Marshall Scholars in the US. In recent years we have done much to re-establish links with Chevening alumni. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 13 March, we are working hard to improve the ways in which we build links with all scholars right from the start of the selection process.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to monitor the treatment of *(a)* Christians, *(b)* Ahmadiyyas and *(c)* other religious minorities in Pakistan following the recent elections in that country. [201338]

Dr. Howells: The UK supports freedom of religion and condemns instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief. With our EU partners, we have raised our concerns over the situation of religious minorities in Pakistan and the frequent abuse of the blasphemy legislation. Since the elections, we have continued to meet with representatives of minority organisations both in London and Islamabad to monitor the treatment of minorities and inform policy. Our high commissioner in Islamabad recently met Pakistan's Minister for Education, who also has responsibility for minority affairs. We will continue to monitor the situation and raise concerns about the treatment of minorities with the Government and encourage reform or repeal of discriminatory legislation through the National Assembly.

We endorse the recommendations made by the EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) in its report of 16 April 2008 which stress the need for increased participation of minorities in the election process. A comprehensive and well-harmonised plan of action to support democratic institutions in Pakistan will flow from these lessons, taking full account of the EOM recommendations.

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is undertaking a Universal Periodic Review on the human rights records of a number of countries including Pakistan in May. The UK is participating in this dialogue and will raise the treatment of minorities during the process.

We will continue to encourage Pakistan to fulfil commitments under the UNHRC. We welcome Pakistan's decision to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. We look forward to early implementation of these instruments which we believe should safeguard the rights of minorities in Pakistan.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what circumstances the Government have been refused consular access to Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea; what steps were taken by the Government in response on each occasion; and if he will make a statement. [202177]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 30 April 2008]:* Our consul from the British deputy high commission in Lagos was refused consular access to Simon Mann during his last visit to Equatorial Guinea in March. Since then the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and our posts in Nigeria, which also cover Equatorial Guinea, have been taking this issue forward with the Equatorial Guinea authorities. Simon Mann's welfare remains our primary concern.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request his US counterpart to seek regular access to Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea, on behalf of the Government. [202178]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 30 April 2008]:* Our consular officials are seeking consular access to Simon Mann through the Equatorial Guinea authorities. Our deputy high commission in Lagos keeps in close touch with the US embassy in Equatorial Guinea, but our priority at present is to gain access for our own consular officials.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provisions of international law apply to the granting by Equatorial Guinea to another country of consular access to one of its citizens held in prison. [202179]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 30 April 2008]:* Both the UK and Equatorial Guinea are party to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Article 36 provides for consular officers of one state party to communicate and have contact with its nationals in another state party to facilitate the exercise of consular functions. Article 36(1)(c) provides that

> "consular officers shall have the right to visit a national of the sending state who is in prison, custody or detention, to converse and correspond with him and to arrange for his legal representation".

Tibet: Politics and Government

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the situation in Tibet; and what steps he has taken to express the Government's concerns to the Chinese government. [201488]

Meg Munn: We remain concerned about the situation in Tibet. We regularly raise our human rights concerns with the Chinese authorities and continue to urge full compliance with international human rights obligations including; rights to freedom of association, expression, religion, access to fair trial and respect for prisoners' fundamental rights. We have urged the Chinese authorities to exercise maximum restraint in dealing with any further unrest in the Tibetan region. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown raised issues of human rights in Tibet during their meetings with Chinese leaders at the Economic Financial Dialogue from 14 to 16 April.

USA: Cuba

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contacts his Department has had with the United States Cuba Transition Co-ordinator in each of the last five years. [203001]

Meg Munn: Officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) held meetings with the US-Cuba Transition Co-ordinator during his visits to London in July 2005 and April 2008. In addition FCO staff at our embassy in Washington have regular contact with colleagues at the US State Department including those dealing with Cuban policy issues.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the purpose was of the recent visit to his Department by Caleb McCarry; whom Mr McCarry met; what was *(a)* discussed and *(b)* agreed; and if he will make a statement. [203002]

Meg Munn: Representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Americas Directorate met US-Cuba Transition Co-ordinator, Caleb McCarry, on 15 April 2008 during his recent visit to London. They discussed issues of mutual interest concerning Cuba and agreed that the meeting had been a useful exchange of views.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 6 May 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Voting Behaviour

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the effect of weekend voting on turnout in areas where weekend voting pilots have taken place. [202948]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission has produced evaluation reports on the piloting of weekend voting at a number of local government elections in England since 2002. In every instance weekend voting has been piloted alongside other initiatives or as a form of advance voting. It has therefore not been possible for the Commission to make an accurate assessment of the specific impact of weekend voting on turnout.

The Commission's pilot scheme evaluation reports can be found on its website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Scrutiny: EU Legislation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has to review the procedures for scrutiny of secondary legislation emanating from EU directives. [202972]

Helen Goodman: Secondary legislation arising from the implementation of EU directives is subject to the range of scrutiny processes to which all other secondary legislation is submitted, including examination by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments and by other Select Committees of each House, and to approval in Parliament under the process laid down in the relevant primary legislation. Any secondary legislation implementing EU directives is subject to an additional requirement that it should be accompanied by a Transposition Note setting out how the relevant legislation is being transposed into UK law. There are no plans for a review.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Angling: Licenses

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the fees for *(a)* non-migratory coarse and trout and *(b)* salmon and sea trout rod licences were in each year since 1997, broken down by category of applicant. [203225]

Jonathan Shaw: Rod licence duties for the years 1997-08 to 2008-09 are shown in the following table.

£

	Non-migratory trout and coarse fish					*Salmon and sea trout*				
	Full	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8-day*	*1-day*	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8-day*	*1-day*
1997-08	16.00	8.00	8.00	6.00	2.00	55.00	27.50	27.50	15.00	5.00
1998-09	16.00	8.00	8.00	6.00	2.00	55.00	27.50	27.50	15.00	5.00
1999-2000	18.00	9.00	9.00	6.50	2.50	57.00	28.50	28.50	16.50	5.50
2000-01	19.00	9.50	9.50	6.50	2.50	58.00	29.00	29.00	16.50	5.50
2001-02	20.00	10.00	5.00	6.50	2.50	59.00	29.50	29.50	16.50	5.50
2002-03	21.00	10.50	5.00	6.50	2.50	60.00	30.00	30.00	16.50	5.50
2003-04	22.00	11.00	5.00	7.00	2.75	61.00	30.50	30.50	18.00	6.00
2004-05	23.00	11.50	5.00	8.00	3.00	62.00	31.00	31.00	19.50	6.50
2005-06	23.50	11.75	5.00	8.00	3.00	63.50	31.75	15.88	19.50	6.50
2006-07	24.00	12.00	5.00	8.00	3.00	65.00	32.50	16.25	19.50	6.50
2007-08	24.50	12.25	5.00	8.00	3.00	66.50	33.25	16.63	19.50	6.50
2008-09	25.00	16.75	5.00	9.00	3.50	68.00	45.00	5.00	22.00	7.50

Angling: Licensing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the percentage increase was in the cost of a fishing licence for an *(a)* adult and *(b)* old age pensioner in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [202117]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The rod licence year starts on 1 April. Concessionary rates of rod licence duty do not apply to old age pensioners as a class, but rather to persons over the age of 65, Blue Badge holders and people in receipt of a disability living allowance.

The Environment Agency is under no legal obligation to offer rod licences to any class of persons at concessionary duty rates. Also concessionary rates are offered not because of an inability to pay, but to reflect reduced opportunities for angling available to those who are disabled or infirm.

Both the Agency and I recognise that the increase in concessionary duty rates for this year is significant. The

Agency has publicly stated that it will use a significant proportion of the monies raised by the higher duty rates to improve access to angling for the disabled and senior anglers. I welcome this and will seek evidence from the Agency that it has honoured that commitment.

The percentage increase in rod licence duties between 2007-08 and 2008-09 for annual licences at full and concessionary rates is set out in the following table.

	2007-08 (£)	*2008-09 (£)*	*Percentage increase*
Salmon and sea trout			
Full	66.50	68.00	2
Concessionary	33.25	45.00	35
Non-migratory trout and coarse fish			
Full	24.50	25.00	2
Concessionary	12.25	16.75	37

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil service posts are to be transferred to the private sector as part of his Department's plans to outsource facilities management functions in the core Department and its agencies. [194356]

Jonathan Shaw: We are unable to confirm precise numbers of civil service posts to be transferred at this time. We are still undergoing liaison with members of the DEFRA Network to establish this information.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultation with trade unions his Department has held in relation to plans to privatise the Department's facilities management functions. [194357]

Jonathan Shaw: The DTUS was engaged immediately on adoption of the business case by DEFRA Management Board.

Consultation continues on a monthly basis with the SRO and senior member of the project team. An additional liaison route is extended to DTUS representation via the project HR subgroup forum which deals with local issues.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the framework approach used in his plans to privatise his Department's facilities management functions. [194358]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA are not adopting a framework approach. We are currently engaged with the market with a view to securing a single national contract which will deliver:

Meeting all of the workplace Support Strategic drivers.

Assisting in meeting DEFRA's SOGE Targets.

Providing investment to the estate in return for a long term contract.

Thinking beyond the traditional parameters of FM.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to adopt a 15-year contract to cover the outsourcing of facilities management functions in his Department. [194359]

Jonathan Shaw: If tender returns from the market support the cost benefit analysis and value for money can be achieved, a 15-year contract is under consideration.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what savings are expected as part of his Department's outsourcing of its facilities management functions; and if he will publish the business case for the proposed outsourcing. [194360]

Jonathan Shaw: The initial business evaluation reported a potential savings of 7.7 per cent. over the term of the contract.

Responses from the first stage of engagement with the market have confirmed that likely savings should be in the region of 6 to 10 per cent.

We regret that publication of the business evaluation, at this time, would jeopardise the Department's commercial negotiations with the market.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 120-21W, on departmental data protection, if he will include information assurance data on data loss incidents in previous years in his Department's next annual report. [199177]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179 and the written ministerial statement made my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data.

The interim report of 17 December 2007 committed to put in place a programme to examine and improve data handling procedures. An update on this commitment will be included in the final report, expected in spring 2008, and this report will detail the information to be included by Departments on data loss in their annual reports.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201725]

Jonathan Shaw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (ie meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 87 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 77, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Northavon of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1855W, on departmental ICT, what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the projected cost of installing and implementing and *(b)* the likely annual saving in energy costs from (i) VISTA's in-built group policy options to enforce a default switch to the VISTA sleep mode after a pre-set elapsed time of inactivity and (ii) the Nightwatchman technology. [200045]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* Further to our response to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) of 28 February 2008, detailed in *Official Report*, column 1855W, on departmental ICT, we are now engaged in preparations to roll-out laptop VISTA devices with global pre-set power management settings.

The installation and implementation of VISTA's power management tools are covered within the IT refresh that is currently being undertaken by IBM. Expenditure for the refresh is covered within the annual service charge paid to IBM, DEFRA's strategic IT partner. As such VISTA's power management tools are freely available for us to use and no significant extra expense has been incurred in using them to set up power management regimes across the Department.

The power management settings will switch the laptops to 'hibernate' after a pre-defined period, in which mode the current desktop is copied to disk and deleted from memory. This mode draws no current, effectively switching off the PC, compared with 'sleep' mode that draws current to maintain the in-use desktop in memory.

We are also ensuring in the same VISTA settings that monitors are similarly switched back to their standby power saving mode. In parallel we are increasing ad hoc inspections by our security guards who will be labelling devices found left switched on.

A recent security guard survey indicated some 600 devices were left switched on across the main buildings on the London estate. Assuming these would all be desktops with flat screen monitors in idle mode (we do not allow active screensavers) with a combined power consumption of 53w (determined from recent power monitoring exercise) and that these devices were all left on every night and every weekend throughout the year, we are wasting some 200MwH per annum. Assuming 0.09p per KwH equates to a potential saving of nearly £20,000.

As stated in the previous response, we are taking no further action in the implementation of Nightwatchman or any other power management software until we have assessed the outcome of our VISTA rollout and the savings that the power management settings bring on energy consumed by the Department's main offices.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199620]

Jonathan Shaw: I can provide the following analysis of the costs of salaries for permanent civil servants and payments to temporary or agency workers within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from May 2005. The Department does not maintain permanent non-civil service posts.

Salaries of permanent civil servant posts and payments to temporary and agency workers, within Defra

£000

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Salaries of permanent civil servant posts	*Payments to temporary or agency workers*	*Salaries of permanent civil servant posts*	*Payments to temporary or agency workers*	*Salaries of permanent civil servant posts*	*Payments to temporary or agency workers*
April	—	—	25,563	845	26,828	464
May	32,132	1,457	25,851	1,051	35,767	394
June	33,179	1,508	26,929	730	35,710	291
July	32,827	1,677	25,570	1,047	30,105	352
August	32,858	1,711	25,449	900	33,950	458
September	33,524	1,572	25,387	772	36,824	258
October	32,603	1,513	25,349	551	29,372	664
November	31,581	1,508	26,702	559	33,437	968
December	29,687	1,734	75,265	539	36,223	272
January	31,713	1,214	30,348	487	31,848	407
February	33,110	1,594	32,582	489	32,017	370
March	32,123	1,669	31,655	620	30,757	577

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were made redundant in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in redundancy compensation in each such year. [197997]

Jonathan Shaw: This Department's 2007-08 voluntary early departure scheme is not a multi-annual scheme but was open for applications between September 2007 and January 2008 with provision set aside in this financial year for any payments to retirees, consequent on their departure under this scheme, which might fall in future years. It immediately followed a previous voluntary early departure scheme which ran from December 2006 to July 2007. We do have some records for 2005-06, however these are not as detailed as those for the last two years, so it is not possible to provide precise figures for this period.

During financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 a total of 751 people took up the option of voluntary early retirement or severance (133 in 2006-07 and 618 in 2007-08). The estimated cost to the Department for these two periods has been £14.8 million and £49 million, respectively, on the funding of voluntary early departures under either scheme. There are currently no plans to launch further voluntary early departure schemes.

In RPA the estimated costs during the financial year 2006-07 was a credit of £74,000, which was due to a reduction in the provision for exit costs and was made up of five people. This was as a result of some staff from 2005-06 withdrawing from their arrangements. In 2007-08 14 staff left on the early departures scheme, with an estimated cost of £1,062,000.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197061]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table sets out the number of Defra staff attending each course during the last 12 months and the associated cost.

Course	*Defra attendees*	*Cost (£)*
Influencing with Integrity	5	3,630
Emotional Intelligence	0	0
Counselling Skills for the Workplace	0	0
Managing your Confidence	1	1,149
Balancing Work/Life Realities	0	0
Working Assertively	3	2,178

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199190]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not monitor the format used for internal correspondence but virtually all of it now takes place by email. The Department's Customer Contact Unit (CCU) manages and monitors incoming correspondence. For the last six months, statistics show that around 40 per cent. of this was received and answered through the email channel.

The large majority of the Department's publications are, where practicable, made available electronically via the Department's website and/or from our distribution centre but this is not specifically monitored.

Horseracing: Death

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether racecourse administrators are required to report the deaths of racehorses on the racecourse to his Department; and if he will make a statement. [196325]

Jonathan Shaw: Racecourse administrators are not required to report the deaths of racehorses on the racecourse to DEFRA.

Land: Contamination

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to issue guidance to local authorities on the management of contaminated land. [202941]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has been working closely with the Environment Agency, the Health Protection Agency, the Food Standards Agency and other stakeholders, on the complex issue of how technical guidance on the assessment of long-term health risks to exposure from contaminated land might be updated and improved. DEFRA plans to announce significant improvements soon.

In the meantime, existing technical guidance produced by the Environment Agency continues to be available to help local authorities assess risks posed by contaminated land. This can be found on the Environment Agency's website. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has also published relevant guidance in "Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control" which can be found on CLG's website.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies was in each year since1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189654]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA was established in 2001. The total annual cost of press officers in core DEFRA is tabulated as follows.

Core DEFRA

	Total expenditure (£)
2001-02	20,369.42
2002-03	394,339.22
2003-04	2,306,706.08
2004-05	2,395,451.69
2005-06	3,526,933.30
2006-07	2,652,535.98
2007-08	2,693,941.29
Total	13,990,276.98
2007-08 per quarter	
Quarter 1	697,736.26
Quarter 2	754,699.23
Quarter 3	804,084.54
Quarter 4	437,421.26
Total	2,693,941.29

The DEFRA press office provides services for the Central Science Laboratory, Government Decontamination Service, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Laboratory Agency, and Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The total annual cost of press officers in each of the remaining DEFRA agencies of CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences) and the Rural Payments Agency, in each year since 2001 is tabulated as follows.

RPA

	Total expenditure (£)
2001-02	5,661.40
2002-03	5,529.80
2003-04	6,166.20
2004-05	6,013.60
2005-06	40,500.00
2006-07	131,100.00
2007-08	141,357.80
Total	336,328.80
2007-08 per quarter	
Quarter 1	29,280.00
Quarter 2	8,640.00
Quarter 3	63,200.00
Quarter 4	40,237.80
Total	141,357.80

CEFAS

	Total expenditure (£)
2001-02	900
2002-03	936
2003-04	18,140
2004-05	41,222
2005-06	50,201
2006-07	43,553
2007-08	45,737
Total	200,689.00
2007-08 per quarter	
Quarter 1	13,834.25
Quarter 2	10,764.85
Quarter 3	10,634.25
Quarter 4	10,503.65
Total	45,736.99

In addition to support from the DEFRA press office, Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service) employs a head of communications and an external communications manager.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189655]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA was established in 2001. The number of press officers in core DEFRA is tabulated as follows, with the census point for the number of press officers taken as June for each year. The staffing numbers for the press office fluctuate during the course of any one year.

The following figures exclude numbers for ancillary or support staff; numbers have varied, ranging from three to seven during the review period.

Staff numbers as at June	*Press officers*
2001	22
2002	22
2003	22
2004	18
2005	24
2006	24
2007	20

The DEFRA press office provides services for the Central Science Laboratory, Government Decontamination Service, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Laboratory Agency. and Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The number of staff employed in the Press Offices of each of the remaining DEFRA agencies of CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences) and the Rural Payments Agency, in each year since 2001 is tabulated as follows, with the number of ancillary support staff in brackets (the RPA did not have any ancillary staff associated with the press office).

	Agency	
	CEFAS	*RPA*
2001	0.02	0.2
2002	0.03	0.2
2003	0.03	0.2
2004	0.68	0.2
2005	1.0 (0.16)	0.2
2006	1.0 (0.24)	1.0
2007	1.0	2.0

In addition to support from the DEFRA press office, Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service) employs a head of communications and an external communications manager.

The "White Book" of contacts in Government Departments and agencies contains listings for DEFRA and is updated twice yearly.

TRANSPORT

A12

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the current programme of A12 improvements will be completed in Essex; and what plans there are for a further programme of improvements to the A12 in Essex to provide for *(a)* better safety and *(b)* increased capacity. [203415]

Mr. Tom Harris: The A12/M25 Brook Street Interchange was opened on 10 March 2008. Major maintenance schemes are currently programmed to be undertaken at Kelvedon in 2008-09 and at Witham to Hatfield Peverel in 2009-10.

Future major improvements of safety and capacity to the A12 are dependent on schemes being prioritised for funding by the East of England from its Regional Funding Allocation for major transport schemes, or from other sources.

A12: Accidents

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents there have been on the A12 and at junctions on the A12 in Essex which have resulted in serious injury or death over the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available; and how many people were *(a)* seriously injured and *(b)* died as a result of these incidents. [203414]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following table shows the number of people killed and seriously injured on the A12 in Essex over the past five calendar years. The Highways Agency does not currently hold any full accident figures for 2008.

Accidents A12 Essex

	Fatal	*Seriously injured*
2003	4	39
2004	4	65
2005	6	58
2006	5	41
2007	4	24
Total	23	227

Asphalt

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* quantity and *(b)* type is of fossil fuels used to extract, refine and manufacture each metric tonne of road-quality asphalt used on roads. [202511]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally. The Highways Agency has developed a framework for calculating the carbon footprint across all of its operations, including asphalt, and this is being applied this financial year. We have asked the UK Roads Liaison Group to consider what further research and advice will be helpful to local authorities.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions per metric tonne of road-quality asphalt from *(a)* all stages of its manufacture for use on roads and *(b)* the process of laying on to road surfaces in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assumptions are made in each calculation. [202512]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No specific estimate has been made of the levels of carbon dioxide emissions associated with the asphalt used for roads. The Highways Agency is developing a whole life value assessment tool for highway pavements which will include carbon dioxide emission calculations. It plans to implement this tool as part of its Sustainable Development Action Plan. We have asked the UK Roads Liaison Group to consider what further research and advice will be helpful to local authorities.

Brussels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what visits to Brussels were made by each Minister in her Department by *(a)* Eurostar, *(b)* commercial flights, *(c)* other flights and *(d)* other means of travel in 2007-08. [203389]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The then Minister of State for Transport, the hon. Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) visited the European Parliament in Brussels in May 2007 and my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Transport (Ms Winterton) attended a meeting of the Transport Council in Brussels in November 2007. Both Ministers travelled by Eurostar.

Bus Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will introduce another Kickstart initiative to help the commercial bus industry to introduce new and enhanced services. [202518]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are keeping under review whether to hold a further competition for Kickstart funding against the background of the proposals contained in our consultation document 'Local Bus Service Support—Options for Reform', published on 13 March.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to prevent bus companies changing their services to create more journeys within the national concessionary bus fare scheme process for remuneration per journey. [203157]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The main principle which applies to reimbursement is that bus operators should be financially no better and no worse off as a result of taking part in concessionary travel schemes. Reimbursement paid to bus operators takes two forms: revenue forgone and additional costs.

Revenue forgone is reimbursement of the fares operators would have received for existing passengers now travelling free. Here reimbursement is not based on the full commercial adult fare as, in the absence of a concession, discounted fares would be available at off-peak times.

Additional costs are those associated with carrying people who are only travelling because of the concession. The operator only receives a payment to cover the marginal additional costs of carrying these extra passengers.

As such, any rise in patronage as a result of the concession should be revenue neutral to operators.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many journey changes to bus routes were notified by bus companies to the traffic commissioners in each of the last 48 months for which figures are available. [203158]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not available on a monthly basis. The number of applications in Great Britain to vary the registration of a local bus service which were accepted by the traffic commissioners in the latest four years (ending 31 March) for which figures are available is as follows:

	Number
2003-04	9,976
2004-05	9,613
2005-06	9,426
2006-07	8,109

Currently, around 23,000 registered bus services operate in Great Britain. This figure does not include local services provided wholly within London, which are not subject to registration by the traffic commissioners.

Bus Services: Concessions

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of national concessionary bus fares scheme passes applied for have been issued; and what percentage of the eligible population have applied for such passes. [202738]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Responsibility for producing and issuing passes for the England-wide bus concession lies with local Travel Concession Authorities (mainly District Councils, non-metropolitan Unitaries and the Passenger Transport Executives). As such the Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of applications received. We do, however, have an estimate of the number of passes that suppliers expected to have to produce for local authorities in England outside London.

By 1 April 2008, suppliers had produced 95 per cent. of the passes they expected to have to produce and had sent out over 80 per cent. to concessionaires. By 8 April, this had increased to 99 per cent. produced and sent out.

In respect of eligibility, we estimate that around 11 million people in England are eligible for concessionary travel passes. By 8 April, around 6 million people outside London had applied for and received a new pass.

In London, concessionaires who already have a pass do not need a new one, but need to have their existing pass re-stickered to show that they are eligible for the new England-wide concession. Around 800,000 people in London have had their passes re-stickered or (if they are a new applicant) received a new pass.

Bus Services: Pendle

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding has been given to Pendle council to pay for the implementation of the free nationwide bus travel scheme for the elderly; and if she will make a statement. [202015]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Pendle borough council will receive special grant funding of £268,000 in 2008-09 for the improvement to statutory concessionary travel to England-wide, which was implemented on 1 April. This is in addition to its existing funding for concessionary travel which is provided through formula grant. In 2006-07, the latest for which we hold outturn data,

Pendle borough council spent £1,152,000 on concessionary travel. As such the additional funding through a special grant represents an increase of 23 per cent.

Cycling: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to encourage children to practise safe cycling. [203017]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* I announced on 17 March that we would be making funding of over £3 million available to local authorities to train nearly 80,000 schoolchildren to the Bikeability standard in 2008-09. This is in addition to the 46,000 children for whom we have already funded training via local authorities and School Sports Partnerships.

Some of the local authorities receiving funding in 2008-09 are also investing their own money in Bikeability standard training to train a further 29,000 children. Other local authorities also provide Bikeability standard training as part of their normal programme without any DFT grant.

We will make further funds available for cycle training in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to help meet our objective of providing cycle training for 500,000 children by 2012.

We have also invested £18.4 million in Links to Schools which extends the National Cycle Network (NCN) from residential areas to schools. We have provided these routes to over 600 schools which encourages pupils to cycle to school by improving their safety. Further funds will be made available to achieve our aim of providing Links to Schools to 500 more schools by 2011.

The Highway Code and Arrive Alive, the Highway Code for Young Road Users both give advice to child cyclists on the wearing of safety equipment such as cycle helmets and light-coloured or fluorescent clothing which makes them easier to see at night or in poor daylight by other road users.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1195W, on departmental internet: Wikipedia, whether former Ministers and special advisers in her Department have created or amended Wikipedia entries; and *(a)* on which dates and *(b)* from which IP range the amendments listed in the answer were made. [202378]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have no central record of whether previous Ministers or special advisers have created or amended Wikipedia entries. Factual entries made by departmental officials were listed in my previous reply.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which her Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203599]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies 2007" identifies the following as the non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) that are sponsored by the Department for Transport. For each NDPB that has been identified, the number of people serving on the board has been stated.

Executive NDPB	*Number of board members*
British Transport Police Authority	14
Passenger Focus	14
Railway Heritage Committee	16
Northern Lighthouse Board	19
Trinity House Lighthouse Service	8
Advisory NDPB (Total)	
Commission for Integrated Transport	18
Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee	16
Tribunal NDPB (Total)	
Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain	0

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many working days were lost by her Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198934]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the 12 months to February 2008, the Department for Transport has experienced a 13 per cent. drop in total stress-related absence. Individual monthly figures are as follows:

Month	*Total*
2006	
April	2,479
May	2,794
June	2,935
July	3,105
August	3,456
September	3,359
October	3,431
November	3,426
December	2,876
2007	
January	3,416
February	3,067
March	3,072
April	2,794
May	3,317
June	3,266
July	3,634
August	3,880
September	3,215
October	3,430
November	3,451
December	2,746
2008	
January	2,924

Month	Total
February	2,660
March	[1]2,053

[1] Excludes the central Department. Stress-related absence in the central Department in February 2008 was 163 days.

Local Authorities: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether local authorities have recruited additional staff to take account of the change in April in their responsibilities under parking regulations. [202492]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

M1: Road Works

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the roadworks between junctions 6 and 10 of the M1 motorway to be completed; and when she expects all lanes on this part of the road to be open. [203528]

Mr. Tom Harris: Work on M1 junction 6a to 10 widening is progressing well and the scheme is due for completion to programme in December 2008. The works are being constructed in two sections, section one from junction 10 to approximately 2.5 km south of junction 9; section 2 from 2.5 km south of junction 9 to junction 6a M25.

Highways Agency opened section one to four lanes in both directions over the Mayday bank holiday weekend, initially to 50 mph to trial motorway communications. The speed limit will be increased to the national limit, 70 mph, when commissioning of motorway communication equipment is complete. This is expected to be before the end of May.

Section two will remain under traffic management until the end of the year when it is intended that both carriageways will be running four lanes in both directions in time for the Christmas and new year holidays.

M1: Whipsnade

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* cameras and *(b)* other equipment are installed on the gantries recently erected in the vicinity of junction 9 of the M1 motorway; what purpose each piece of equipment serves; and if she will make a statement. [203529]

Mr. Tom Harris: *(a)* There are currently no cameras mounted on gantries in the vicinity of M1 junction 9. Close circuit television (CCTV) cameras used by the Eastern Regional Control Centre (ERCC) are located, one northbound and two southbound, on 15 m high masts adjacent to the gantries. ERCC use the images from CCTV to monitor local traffic conditions and to direct Highways Agency Traffic Officers to incidents and breakdowns.

(b) The following equipment is mounted on gantries in this area:

Advanced Motorway Indicators (AMI)—Located over every lane and used to control speeds.

Enhanced Message Sign (EMS)—Located over the hard shoulder and used to notify drivers of traffic conditions, weather messages, campaign messages etc.

In addition standard lane indicators which display speed and fog warnings are mounted on 3 m high posts on the entry (on) and exit (off) slip road verge.

Piracy

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department issues to UK-registered ships operating in or passing through areas where there is a risk of piracy on *(a)* intervention in and *(b)* taking active steps to prevent acts of piracy. [202713]

Jim Fitzpatrick: UK registered vessels are issued with advice by the Department for Transport on taking active steps to counter piracy, armed robbery and other acts of violence against merchant shipping. This is set out in "maritime guidance note" MGN 298(M), a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

In addition to this advice, the Department issues specific tailored advice regarding particular piracy hot spots. This is based on intelligence and threat assessment, and is of a sensitive nature. The Department has regular dialogue with the industry to consider further practical measures, where appropriate.

The Department does not issue guidance to UK registered vessels on intervening in acts of piracy.

Roads

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what her Department's definition is of a pothole with reference to roads maintained by *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* local authorities; [202885]

(2) what statistics her Department collates on the number of potholes in roads. [202886]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Statistics on the condition of roads in England and Wales are published annually in the National Road Maintenance Condition Survey Statistics Bulletin. Abrupt changes in the level of the road such as potholes are only one component of the overall condition of the highway and are not separately defined.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras there were in each local authority area in each year since 2001. [203340]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The Department for Transport only holds information about the number of safety camera sites (covering both fixed and mobile camera enforcement) operating within the national safety camera programme for England and Wales which ended on 31 March 2007. The following table shows the number of speed camera sites operating within the national programme within

each year using the 'date established' supplied by the safety camera partnerships. Different areas entered the national programme on different dates, and in many cases had established camera sites before joining the programme which are not shown in the table.

Since 1 April 2007, the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of cameras in place since then will therefore be a matter for each individual partnership.

Camera sites by area and year

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	104	189	228	247	247	247	247
Bedfordshire	30	88	90	95	114	114	114
Cambridgeshire	36	56	67	74	88	92	92
Cheshire	18	26	54	64	75	80	80
Cleveland	34	38	47	52	52	54	54
Cumbria	0	0	35	35	39	44	44
Derbyshire	45	73	108	123	127	128	128
Devon and Cornwall	55	95	105	124	145	147	147
Dorset	29	51	92	99	102	105	105
Essex	117	126	159	168	215	220	220
Gloucestershire	29	29	60	72	72	72	72
Greater Manchester	67	79	135	153	261	268	271
Hampshire	19	22	50	61	66	68	68
Hertfordshire	23	23	51	63	80	94	95
Humberside	0	0	64	77	81	81	82
Kent and Medway	38	62	96	118	126	129	129
Lancashire	63	150	268	338	344	345	345
Leicestershire	7	65	77	83	83	88	88
Lincolnshire	25	38	48	57	60	61	61
London	294	305	323	352	403	439	439
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	24	46	51
Mid and South Wales	74	266	327	353	354	355	355
Norfolk	8	14	24	29	31	37	37
North Wales	27	28	66	72	73	73	73
Northamptonshire	26	28	35	39	77	84	84
Northumbria	34	34	103	121	121	126	126
Nottinghamshire	10	44	44	53	55	62	62
South Yorkshire	35	112	119	119	119	119	119
Staffordshire	54	55	65	81	98	98	98
Suffolk	1	3	47	55	55	55	55
Surrey	15	16	16	16	21	23	30
Sussex	25	50	58	69	77	78	81
Thames Valley	213	266	269	274	275	275	275
Warwickshire	8	20	21	34	34	37	37
West Mercia	0	0	40	53	56	60	63
West Midlands	97	100	116	141	155	161	161
West Yorkshire	6	27	47	79	83	86	86
Wiltshire	6	23	50	62	62	63	63
Grand total	1,672	2,601	3,604	4,105	4,550	4,714	4,737

Tintwistle Hollingworth and Mottram Bypass

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many days the Mottram bypass public inquiry has sat since June 2007. [203526]

Mr. Tom Harris: Since June 2007, the A57/A628 Mottram Tintwistle bypass public inquiry sat for 15 days. These dates are listed as follows:

Day 1: 26 June 2007
Day 2: 3 July 2007
Day 3: 4 July 2007
Day 4: 5 July 2007
Day 5: 6 July 2007
Day 6: 10 July 2007
Day 7: 11 July 2007
Day 8: 12 July 2007
Day 9: 4 September 2007
Day 10: 5 September 2007
Day 11:6 September 2007
Day 12: 11 September 2007
Day 13: 19 September 2007
Day 14: 6 November 2007
Day 15: 18 December 2007

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency of the Mottram bypass public inquiry has been. [203527]

Mr. Tom Harris: All of the costs for this scheme lie with the Highways Agency. The A57/A628 Mottram Tintwistle bypass public inquiry started in June 2007. Since award of contract in August 2004 the scheme has incurred costs of £15,000,000. This includes design costs for the scheme, publication of draft orders, preparation and publication of the environmental statement, traffic modelling, legal costs, Highways Agency staff costs and the public inquiry. The specific costs for the public inquiry itself are not recorded separately.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments: Local Authorities

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure that local authorities make provision for allotment sites. [203575]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide allotments where they perceive a demand for them in their area. Furthermore, 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002' requires local authorities to make provision for all types of open space and requires them to undertake robust assessments of local needs and audits of existing open space, to establish standards for new provision. By implementing the guidance in PPG 17, local authorities should make adequate provision for allotments.

A revised good practice guide, "Growing in the Community," was published by the Local Government Association in March 2008, and includes a section on allotment provision. A free copy was sent to all local authorities.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the advertising and marketing budget of her Department and each of its agencies is for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [202463]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not have a central advertising and marketing budget.

The final evaluation of the public information campaigns carried out by the Department in 2007-08 is currently being prepared and will be published in the Department's annual report, which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Information on our agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which her Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203601]

Mr. Dhanda: The Cabinet Office publication 'Public Bodies 2007' lists the number of people serving on the boards of public bodies as at 31 March 2007. These figures are broken down by individual Departments. 'Public Bodies 2007' can be downloaded from

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp.

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1393-4W, on departmental publications, if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the contents page, *(b)* the guidance on travel and *(c)* the guidance on bonuses from her Department's staff handbook. [202958]

Mr. Dhanda: A copy of the staff handbook contents page, guidance on travel and subsistence and guidance on bonuses has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time posts were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in her Department in each of the last three years. [200657]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department makes use of temporary staff from employment agencies to fill certain posts. Often such posts require specialised skills. Our historical records of this practice are not in a format that enables us to provide the requested information.

In addition, permanent civil servants are on occasion asked to fulfil a role at a more senior level on a temporary basis. In such instances, a temporary responsibility allowance is awarded. Because of the way that data have been entered on our payroll system, the information requested in relation to periods of temporary responsibility, which subsequently last for longer than six months, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Mapping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1397W, on digital mapping, who the members of the Expert Group on the Digital National Framework are. [202956]

Mr. Dhanda: The Digital National Framework Expert Group meets three times a year to coordinate its activities. The Expert Group distribution list presently comprises over 60 representatives from 45 organisations, of which 29 are private sector or commercial organisations. Some representatives participate in a corresponding role only. Generally there are around 20 participants at an Expert

Group and members host the meetings. The agenda and minutes of the meeting are posted on the DNF website at:

http://www.dnf.org/Pages/about%20dnf/EGroup.asp

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1397W, on digital mapping, when the Expert Group on the Digital National Framework last met. [202967]

Mr. Dhanda: The Expert Group on the Digital National Framework last met on 5 March 2008. The meeting was hosted by Natural England in London and the minutes will appear on the DNF website

http://www.dnf.org/Pages/about%20dnf/EGroup.asp

once agreed by participants.

Fire Services: Insurance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what insurance protection for injury or death is provided for firefighters in relation to *(a)* standard fire and rescue work and *(b)* terrorist incidents. [203053]

Mr. Dhanda: The Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (England) Order 2006 provides for lump sum payments to be made in respect of firefighters who die or are permanently incapacitated on duty. A fixed amount equal to five times the annual pensionable pay of a firefighter with four years' service is paid if the person leaves dependants. £950 is paid if there are no dependants.

The scheme also provides for the payment of injury awards to firefighters injured on duty who are permanently disabled in the performance of duty. The award is based upon an assessment of loss of earnings capacity.

The scheme is non-contributory.

Floods: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1405W, on floods: repairs and maintenance, if she will break down by local government area the indicated number of households which are still displaced following the summer floods of 2007. [203525]

John Healey: The following table breaks down the number of displaced households by local authority area. The table is based on the best information available from local authorities in March 2008, which in some cases were estimates or figures provided in January. We expect figures provided in January to have decreased, and this is reflected in our estimates.

Local authority	*Households displaced*
Amber Valley District	[1]9
Barnsley District	19
Basingstoke and Deane District	[1]10
Birmingham District	8
Cheltenham District	63
Chesterfield District	88
City of Kingston upon Hull	2,363
Cotswold District	193
County of Herefordshire	20
Doncaster District	92
East Lindsey District	[1]106
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,312
Forest of Dean District	17
Gloucester District	176
Harrogate District	[1]8
Kirklees District	[1]17
Leeds District	2
Lincoln District	[1]7
Malvern Hills District	100
Newark and Sherwood District	19
Newcastle-under-Lyme District	[1]7
North East Lincolnshire	[1]2
North Lincolnshire	105
North Tyneside District	[1]1
North Wiltshire District	35
Oxford District	35
Rotherham District	11
Sheffield District	[1]13
South Shropshire District	16
Stratford-on-Avon District	200
Stroud District	22
Swindon	[1]74
Tewkesbury District	382
Vale of White Horse District	141
Wakefield District	90
Warwick District	14
West Berkshire	357
West Lindsey District	44
West Oxfordshire District	204
Wokingham	70
Worcester District	1
Wychavon District	256
Wyre Forest District	1
Total	6,710

[1] January figures

Housing: Derelict Land

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the figures referred to in the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1387-88W, on brownfield development are for the most recent year available, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* county and *(c)* local authority. [201823]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* Information on the percentage of new dwellings on previously-developed land (also referred to as 'brownfield' land) as a proportion of all new dwellings including conversions, the percentage of new dwellings on previously-residential land as a proportion of all dwellings on previously-developed land and the percentage of new dwellings on previously-residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings for 2006 has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Development on previously-residential land includes conversions, sites where dwellings are demolished and replaced as well as building on back gardens and other types of development. Local authorities have always had the power to turn down applications for inappropriate housing development in back gardens and new planning rules that came into force in April have strengthened those powers further.

In particular, councils have now been given the ability to set local policies that specifically protect gardens and to separate gardens out from their wider brownfield development targets.

Land Use: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wirral South of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1274W, on allotments, whether the Green Space Database will include information on *(a)* land with green belt designation, *(b)* green field land, *(c)* playing fields and *(d)* gardens; [202467]

(2) what the planned expenditure is on the Green Space Database; and when it is expected to go live. [202483]

Mr. Iain Wright: The contract for the first phase of the green space database was awarded, following an open competition, for £66,163. It is expected to go live in summer 2008. The database's focus is on green spaces. It will not identify whether these are designated as green belt or green field land. It will include data on playing fiends and gardens as well as allotments, public parks and recreational woodlands.

Local Authorities: Assets

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority assets have been transferred to community control since the publication of the Communities in Control pamphlet. [202557]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Authorities: Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* guidance has been produced and *(b)* amendments are planned on the use of CCTV by local authorities. [202623]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

No guidance has been produced, nor have any amendments been planned to local authorities on the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV). The Home Office published the National CCTV Strategy last year, and a National CCTV Strategy Programme Board has been established. The programme board is reviewing the recommendations of the strategy and Ministers will have the opportunity to approve the work of the board later this year.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department will respond to the letter of 21 December 2007 from South Cambridgeshire district council on the Formula Grant Distribution for 2008-09 and 2010-11. [203886]

Mr. Dhanda: A response to South Cambridgeshire district council's letter of 21 December 2007 on the Formula Grant Distribution was sent to Councillor Ray Manning on 18 February 2008.

Property: Databases

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how frequently the National Land and Property Gazetteer is updated; [203431]

(2) what the cost to *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* local authorities has been of creating the National Land and Property Gazetteer. [203432]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Land and Property Gazetteer is maintained by the Improvement and Development Agency. It is not for Communities and Local Government to comment on it. Further information can be found on the internet at:

www.nlpg.org.uk.

Thames Gateway Delivery Corporation: Olympic Games 2012

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the remit of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation has been amended following the award of the 2012 Olympic Games to London. [192311]

Caroline Flint: The remit of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, set up in 2004, is to drive forward the regeneration of the largest concentrations of brownfield land in the capital, in the Lower Lea Valley and Barking Riverside. This area now includes the main Olympic Park site at Stratford. Because of the unique nature of the Olympic Park, a specific organisation, the Olympic Delivery Authority, has been set up to deliver it, and the legacy transformation of the Olympic site is being co-ordinated by the London Development Agency, who own the land. This however is a small part of the overall London Thames Gateway Development Corporation designated area. The Olympic site is anticipated to deliver in the region of 9,000 new homes. The substantial task of regenerating the remainder of the Lea Valley, which is anticipated to deliver some 25,000 new homes, remains with the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation and no change in their remit is necessary. The Development Corporation works closely with key stakeholders and it is anticipated that it will also work with the HCA, which will, once it is set up, have a leading role in bringing together the delivery of regeneration and housing.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Census

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what changes in *(a)* presentation and *(b)* questions are planned for the 2011 census in Northern Ireland. [203434]

Paul Goggins: These are transferred matters and therefore the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201731]

Paul Goggins: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http: //www. dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAnd Reports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www .justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformation quarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied; and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 89 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 46, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any telephone numbers for use by the general public in Northern Ireland to contact offices under his Department's control are premium rate. [203436]

Mr. Woodward: There are no premium rate telephone numbers used by the general public to contact the Northern Ireland Office or its executive agencies.

Sexual Offences: Foreigners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign nationals were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted of sex-related crimes in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available; and what percentage of the total number of those (i) arrested and (ii) convicted of such crimes foreign nationals represented. [201350]

Paul Goggins: The total number of persons arrested for sexual offences during the financial year 2007-08 in Northern Ireland was 855,110 (13 per cent.) of which were foreign nationals.

Of the 161 persons convicted for sexual offences during the calendar year 2006 (the latest year for which figures are available), six (4 per cent.) were foreign nationals.

Conviction data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

It is not possible routinely to reconcile arrest data from PSNI with conviction data as PSNI data denote each offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect or suspects are subsequently proceeded against in the courts.

Stratagem

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments the *(a)* Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and *(b)* Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland made to Stratagem in each of the last five years; and on what date each payment was made. [202259]

Paul Goggins: The following tables give the amounts and dates of payments made to Stratagem by *(a)* the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and *(b)* Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, over the last five years.

(a) Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

	Amount (£)
7 February 2003	176.25
6 August 2003	293.75
3 November 2005	352.50
28 December 2006	411.25
14 August 2007	411.25

(b) Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland

	Amount (£)
3 December 2004	292.58
13 February 2008	587.50
12 March 2008	587.50
8 April 2008	587.50

HEALTH

Hepatitis C

13. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C. [203371]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We recognise the importance of hepatitis C as a public health issue. This is why we have set a clear national framework to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C in the 'Hepatitis C Action Plan for England'.

To support this, we are running a national hepatitis C awareness campaign for health care professionals and the public and funding improved epidemiological surveillance by the Health Protection Agency.

Infection Control

14. **John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve infection control in the NHS. [203372]

Ann Keen: The national health service have made significant reductions on infections, and are on track to halve the methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) rate by the end of March 2008. MRSA infections are down 30 per cent. and *C. difficile* infections, for 65s and over, are down 23 per cent. on the same quarter in the previous year.

However, we are not stopping there. The NHS will be expected to maintain improvements on MRSA and deliver a 30 per cent. reduction in *C. difficile* infections by 2010-11.

We have a strategy we know will reduce infection and equipped the NHS with a toolkit to deliver it. We have invested the money—over £270 million of additional investment per year by 2010-11. We have made proper infection control a legal requirement and are inspecting all trusts against this.

Premature Babies

15. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent changes there have been in the survival rate of premature babies born before 24 weeks. [203373]

Ann Keen: In 2005, 435 babies were born in England and Wales with a gestational age below 24 weeks. Of these, 383 (about 88 per cent.) died before their first birthday. No further information is currently available.

Primary Care

16. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next expects to meet GPs from East Anglia to discuss primary care. [203374]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State regularly meets general practitioners (GPs) and their representatives.

The national health service in the east of England is committed to delivering the strategic health authority's 'Improving Lives; Saving Lives' programme, which aims to ensure GP practices improve access.

MP3 Players

18. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research into the effects on hearing of the use of personal MP3 players. [203377]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is already widely understood that playing personal audio equipment too loud can damage your hearing.

The European Commission has asked the scientific committee on emerging and newly identified health risks for an opinion on the potential health risk of exposure to noise from personal music players and mobile phones which include a music playing function.

Water

19. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the recommended daily intake of water. [203378]

Ann Keen: In temperate climates, such as the UK, the UK Government advise that six to eight glasses (about 1.2 litres) of water, or other fluids, should be consumed every day to prevent dehydration. This amount should be increased when the weather is warm or when exercising.

GP-led Health Centres

20. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation is being carried out at the local level on the introduction of GP-led health centres. [203379]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts are currently talking to local people and NHS staff about how new GP-led health centre services are best provided to meet local needs. The precise nature of each consultation in each area will vary depending on local circumstances.

Pharmacy White Paper

21. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the Pharmacy White Paper. [203380]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have received broad support for our proposals set out in "Pharmacy in England, Building on strengths, delivering the future" from the national health service, pharmaceutical and medical representatives. Dispensing doctors have expressed some concerns about aspects of our proposals. We are currently holding public events to hear views on the White Paper generally, and on some key proposals for structural change on which there will be full consultation later this summer.

Preventive Health Check-ups

22. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to implement the preventive health check-up policy announced by the Prime Minister. [203381]

Ann Keen: The Prime Minister announced in January the Government's intention to develop a programme to assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. "Putting Prevention First", published on 1 April 2008, showed that a vascular checks programme for those aged between 40 and 74 would be clinically and cost-effective. We are now working with stakeholders to design the programme for delivery from 2009-10.

Health Inequalities

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress his Department has made in tackling health inequalities. [203375]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In March 2008, the Department published "Tackling Health Inequalities: 2007 Status Report on the Programme for Action", which showed progress against a range of cross-government health inequalities measures.

Acute Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed transfers of care from acute beds there have been in each NHS trust in the last 12 months; and what proportion of all transfers of care from acute beds this represents in each trust. [202544]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Delayed transfers of care from acute beds, England, 2007-08

Org code	*Org name*	*Delayed transfers of care from acute beds*
	England	2,232
RTQ	2gether NHS Foundation Trust	0
RTV	5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust	0
REM	Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	11
RCF	Airedale NHS Trust	7
RTK	Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	8
RVN	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	0
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	60
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	8
5A9	Barnet PCT	0
RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	0
RFF	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	8
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	8
RDD	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
RN5	Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	10
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	0
RC1	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	12
RV7	Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust	0
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	0
RWX	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	0
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	0
RXT	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust	0
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	0
RXL	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	11
RMC	Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	3
5HQ	Bolton PCT	0
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	0
5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	0
TAD	Bradford District Care Trust	0
RAE	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	37
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	3
RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	33
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	0
RJF	Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	14
5JX	Bury PCT	0
RWY	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	1
5J6	Calderdale PCT	13
RGT	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10
RT1	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	0
TAF	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	0
RV3	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	0
RW3	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	9
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	9
RXA	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	0
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RLN	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	3
REN	Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust	1
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	0
RJ8	Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust	0
RJR	Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	29
RYG	Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	0

Delayed transfers of care from acute beds, England, 2007-08

Org code	Org name	Delayed transfers of care from acute beds
RNN	Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	0
5NE	Cumbria Teaching PCT	0
RN7	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	10
5N7	Derby City PCT	0
RTG	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	30
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	0
RXM	Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	0
RWV	Devon Partnership NHS Trust	0
5QQ	Devon PCT	0
RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	18
RBD	Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	9
RDY	Dorset Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	0
5QM	Dorset PCT	0
RNA	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	34
5PE	Dudley PCT	0
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	7
RWH	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	18
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	0
RJN	East Cheshire NHS Trust	1
RVV	East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	40
RXR	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	22
5NH	East Lancashire Teaching PCT	0
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	0
RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	34
5C1	Enfield PCT	0
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	8
RDE	Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	8
RDU	Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	13
RR7	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	12
RLT	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	8
RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	0
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	0
RXV	Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	0
RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	1
RW1	Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust	0
5QC	Hampshire PCT	4
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	0
RCD	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	3
5K6	Harrow PCT	0
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	0
5A4	Havering PCT	0
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	0
RR1	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	54
RD7	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
RLQ	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	37
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	0
RWR	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	0
RQQ	Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	3
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5
RWA	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	27

Delayed transfers of care from acute beds, England, 2007-08

Org code	Org name	Delayed transfers of care from acute beds
RV9	Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	0
RYJ	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	29
RGQ	Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	19
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	0
RGP	James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	13
RXY	Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust	0
RNQ	Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	15
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	35
5N2	Kirklees PCT	0
RW5	Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust	0
RXN	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	14
RGD	Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust	0
RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	22
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	0
RT5	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	0
RP7	Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	0
5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	0
5NL	Liverpool PCT	0
RC9	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	10
RWF	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	32
TAE	Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust	0
5NT	Manchester PCT	0
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	7
RPA	Medway NHS Foundation Trust	0
5L3	Medway PCT	0
RW4	Mersey Care NHS Trust	0
RBT	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10
RQ8	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	13
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	0
RJD	Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust	13
RXF	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	23
RD8	Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	6
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	0
5D7	Newcastle PCT	0
RM1	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	50
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	0
RVJ	North Bristol NHS Trust	22
RWW	North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4
RNL	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	3
5PW	North East Essex PCT	0
TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	0
RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	0
RRD	North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	0
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	0
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	11
5M8	North Somerset PCT	0
RLY	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	0
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	0

Delayed transfers of care from acute beds, England, 2007-08

Org code	Org name	Delayed transfers of care from acute beds
RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	5
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	0
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	21
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	0
RNS	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	7
RP1	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust	0
5PD	Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	0
RBZ	Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	7
RTF	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	16
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	0
RX1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	35
5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	0
RHA	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	0
RBF	Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	2
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	18
RNU	Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	0
RHX	Oxfordshire Learning Disability NHS Trust	0
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	0
RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	25
RT2	Pennine Care NHS Trust	0
RGN	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	14
RK9	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	20
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	0
RD3	Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	30
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	0
RHU	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	29
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	12
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	5
RPC	Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0
5NA	Redbridge PCT	0
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	0
RL1	Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust	10
5H8	Rotherham PCT	0
RXE	Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	0
RHW	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	42
REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	24
RH8	Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	7
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	17
RQ6	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	13
RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	6
RD1	Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	35
RPR	Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	22
5F5	Salford PCT	0
RM3	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	23
RNZ	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	14
RXK	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	26
TAJ	Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust	0
RCC	Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	8
TAH	Sheffield Care Trust	0

Delayed transfers of care from acute beds, England, 2007-08

Org code	Org name	Delayed transfers of care from acute beds
RHQ	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	18
RK5	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0
RXW	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	12
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	0
RH5	Somerset Partnership NHS and Social Care Trust	0
5QL	Somerset PCT	0
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	0
RA9	South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	4
RDR	South Downs Health NHS Trust	0
5P1	South East Essex PCT	0
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	0
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	0
RRE	South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	0
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	0
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	13
RE9	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	1
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	0
RJC	South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	4
5PY	South West Essex PCT	0
RQY	South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	0
RXG	South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust	0
5L1	Southampton City PCT	0
RHM	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	18
RAJ	Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	18
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	2
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	5
RBN	St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	6
RWJ	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	13
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	0
RT6	Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0
5PT	Suffolk PCT	0
RXX	Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust	0
RTP	Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	1
5P5	Surrey PCT	0
RX2	Sussex Partnership NHS Trust	0
RN3	Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	12
5K3	Swindon PCT	0
RMP	Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	7
RBA	Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	26
RX3	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS trust	0
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	1
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	7
RTD	The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	12
RQW	The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	20

Delayed transfers of care from acute beds, England, 2007-08

Org code	Org name	Delayed transfers of care from acute beds
RCX	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	4
RFR	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	11
RDZ	The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	8
RL4	The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	12
RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	9
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	0
RA7	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	9
RWD	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	64
RRK	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	32
RJE	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	75
RM2	University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	6
RKB	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	16
RWE	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	52
RTX	University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	32
RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	8
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	0
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	0
RET	Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust	1
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	0
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	0
5PV	West Essex PCT	0
RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	15
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	0
5P9	West Kent PCT	0
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	0
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	6
RGR	West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	9
5P6	West Sussex PCT	0
RA3	Weston area Health NHS Trust	0
RGC	Whipps Cross Univerity Hospital NHS Trust	14
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	0
RN1	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	7
RBL	Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	14
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	0
RWP	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	10
RWQ	Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	0
RPL	Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	17
RRF	Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	11
RA4	Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4
RGB	York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0

Note:
Numbers of delayed transfers of care are collected as a snapshot at midnight Thursday each week. The figures provided above are from the last typical week in week 2007-08 to week ending 16 March 2008.
Source:
Department of Health: SitReps

Ambulance Services: Emergency Calls

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical 999 calls were made in each year since 1997, broken down by region; and what percentage of these resulted in ambulance dispatch in each region in each year. [203448]

Mr. Bradshaw: Calls made to national health service ambulance services through the 999-telephony line are not categorised by type of caller. Information on the number of 999 calls made by the medical profession is therefore not collected centrally. Ambulance services provide data against their trust's response times to emergency 999 calls, which are collected each year by the Department on return KA34 and published annually in "Ambulance Services, England. Statistical Bulletin, collected in accordance with KA34". In addition to emergency 999 calls, prior to 1 April 2007, trusts have also reported annual data on urgent cases (i.e. urgent patient journeys), where ambulance services were required to transport patients by an ambulance vehicle to hospital following a request from a doctor, midwife or other health care professional. Information on urgent patient journeys is published annually in the "KA34 statistical bulletin".

Copies of the "KA34 statistical bulletin" are available in the Library.

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many ambulance calls were made to ambulance call or control centres in *(a)* Middlesbrough and *(b)* Tyneside in 2007-08 or the most recent year for which information is available; [203769]

(2) how many ambulance calls made to the call centre in Middlesbrough in the last 12-month period for which information is available were from people in *(a)* Redcar/Cleveland, *(b)* Middlesbrough, *(c)* Darlington, *(d)* Hartlepool and *(e)* Stockton; [203797]

(3) how many 999 calls were made to ambulance or control call centres in *(a)* Middlesbrough and *(b)* Tyneside in 2007-08 or the most recent year for which information is available; [203798]

(4) how many ambulances arrived late at their destination as a result of being misdirected by the ambulance control centre in *(a)* Tyneside and *(b)* Middlesbrough in 2007-08 or the most recent 12-month period for which information is available; [203799]

(5) how many deaths occurred as a result of the ambulance service *(a)* being misdirected and *(b)* (i) arriving late and (ii) not arriving at the destination in the Teesside area of the North East, including Redcar, Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Darlington, Hartlepool and Stockton, in 2007-08 or the last 12-month period for which information is available. [203802]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not centrally collected. The data that the Department does collect on ambulance response times are published on an annual basis in the statistical bulletin, "Ambulance services, England. Statistical Bulletin collected in accordance with KA34". These documents are available in the Library.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to identify possible economies of scale in the procurement of digital mammography services. [203614]

Ann Keen: The 'Cancer Reform Strategy' stated that primary care trusts will need to give high priority to full implementation of digital mammography within the national health service breast screening programme, with all breast screening units having at least one full-field digital mammography set by 2010. Discussions are taking place on the most clinically and cost-effective method of achieving this aim.

Cancer: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve support services for cancer patients. [201337]

Ann Keen: The "Cancer Reform Strategy", published in December 2007, sets out a number of initiatives to improve patient support services for those living with and beyond cancer.

These initiatives include:

ensuring patients receive high quality personalised information throughout their cancer journey on issues such as cancer treatment, local and national support services, and financial benefits;

working with cancer professionals in the NHS to improve their communication skills when dealing with patients;

the establishment of a new national cancer survivorship initiative; and

monitoring progress on improving patient experience through annual surveys.

More detailed information on these measures is available in chapter five of the "Cancer Reform Strategy" a copy of which is available in the Library and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081006

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Cancer Intelligence Network to complete its framework enabling accurate comparisons of England's cancer services with other countries; and when he plans to begin making such comparisons. [203610]

Ann Keen: The new National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) will be launched on 18 June 2008. The NCIN will bring together relevant stakeholders to develop, build, maintain and quality assure a new national repository of cancer data.

The NCIN will also manage the delivery and publication of comparative national information on diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for types of cancer and types of patients.

During 2008, the NCIN will be collaborating closely with other countries to establish what comparisons can be made, and within what time scales. These plans will be outlined as part of the overall NCIN delivery plans, in the first annual report for 2008-09.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which costs associated with implementation of the cancer reform strategy will be met by his Department in each of the next five years; and what additional resources have been included in primary care trust allocations to cover other costs of implementing the strategy. [203611]

Ann Keen: The Impact Assessment published alongside the "Cancer Reform Strategy" sets out the estimated costs of implementing the strategy in each year. The funding to meet these expected costs is mainly being provided through primary care trusts (PCT) general allocations, with some costs met centrally. PCT allocations are not broken down into funding streams for individual services, and it is for the national health service to decide locally how best to deliver the outcomes set out in the strategy, and the actual level of resources required to do so.

Expected central programme budget expenditure in 2008-09 by the Department in support of the "Cancer Reform Strategy" is estimated at £8.6 million. Decisions on the split between central budgets and primary care trust allocations for later years have yet to be taken.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to monitor how *(a)* commissioners and *(b)* providers implement (i) advice, (ii) support and (iii) examples of best practice on (A) how to deliver high-quality, cost effective cancer services and (B) how cancer expenditure should be prioritised. [203613]

Ann Keen: Commissioners of cancer services will be subject to the wider assurance system being developed under the World Class Commissioning Programme and managed by the strategic health authorities. The Healthcare Commission will also provide an independent assessment of provider and commissioner health care organisations to ensure that they are providing a high standard of care.

Primary care trusts are funded to meet the health care needs of their populations. It is for them to prioritise this expenditure in accordance with local needs.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to the development of photodynamic therapy in the treatment of cancer in the next three financial years; [200439]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the effectiveness of photodynamic therapy in the treatment of cancer; [200440]

(3) how many patients were receiving photodynamic therapy at the latest date for which figures are available; [200442]

(4) how many patients received photodynamic therapy in each of the last three years, broken down by hospital at which treatment was dispensed. [200443]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information on the number of patients receiving photodynamic therapy (PDT), where this treatment is provided or the cost of the treatment.

The Department has received a number of written representations about the effectiveness of photodynamic therapy cancer treatment from the charity Killing Cancer.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has issued guidance on the use of PDT in the treatment of several cancers.

It is for the national health service at a local level to decide whether to offer this treatment to patients.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research on the efficacy of photodynamic therapy; and if he will make a statement. [200441]

Ann Keen: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is investing £1 million in a study to gather evidence on the clinical and cost effectiveness of photodynamic therapy for people with age-related macular degeneration.

In addition, two of the NIHR biomedical research centres established in 2007 will be undertaking research concerned with the use of photodynamic therapy. At the University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre, the photodynamic therapy research will form part of a gastroenterology and hepatology research theme to which £5 million has been allocated over five years. At the Moorfields Eye Hospital Biomedical Research Centre it will be part of a programme of research to do with age-related macular degeneration to which £2.9 million has been allocated over five years.

The Department is also providing national health service support for two trials of photodynamic therapy for biliary tract cancers through the NIHR Cancer Research Network, and for two trials of photodynamic therapy for cancer of the gullet (oesophagus) through the joint Cancer Research UK/NIHR Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre at University College Hospital London.

The Medical Research Council has in the last six years funded two studies relating to photodynamic therapy at a total cost of £300,000.

Cancer: Screening

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to increase levels of cancer screening in *(a)* Enfield and *(b)* England. [200572]

Ann Keen: We recognise the important role that screening plays and, as set out in the "Cancer Reform Strategy", we are taking steps to build on and improve our existing screening services. This includes extending the age ranges for both breast and bowel screening, so that as many people as possible have the opportunity to be screened. We estimate that this will mean that an extra three million men and women will be screened over the next five years.

It is important to remember that no screening method is perfect and anyone invited to be screened for cancer must be aware of both the benefit and harm of being screened and be able to make an informed decision on whether to take part or not.

It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their primary care trusts, local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate cancer screening services for their local populations and this includes promotion of local screening services.

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the NHS's radiotherapy capacity to meet the 31-day waiting time target for cancer patients; and what plans he has to increase the NHS's radiotherapy capacity; [201173]

(2) whether he plans to expand the scope of the 31-day waiting time target for radiotherapy from initial to all treatment. [201174]

Ann Keen: As set out in the 'Cancer Reform Strategy', published in December 2007, the 31-day standard will be extended to cover all cancer treatments not just the initial treatment. It also acknowledges that this extension will have an impact on radiotherapy services where increased capacity will be needed if NHS trusts are to meet the extended 31-day standard. Copies of the strategy are available in the Library.

The most recent assessment of radiotherapy was undertaken by the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group as part of their report to Ministers. 'Radiotherapy: developing a world class service for England', was published in May 2007. Copies of this document are available in the Library. The report set out recommendations for improving productivity of existing radiotherapy services and for planning the increase in capacity over the coming years. These recommendations were considered as part of the development of the 'Cancer Reform Strategy', which makes clear that local investment will be needed in both equipment and work force in order to deliver a world class radiotherapy service.

Cardiovascular System: Health Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the potential of telemedicine as an effective and affordable tool for carrying out vascular checks for those aged between 40 to 74 years; [201367]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of telemedicine pharmacies to meeting the Government's programme of free vascular checks for those aged 40 to 74 years. [201470]

Ann Keen: On 1 April 2008, the Department published 'Putting Prevention First'; a copy of this publication is available in the Library. This outlined initial analysis which confirmed that a programme to reach everybody between the ages of 40 and 74, to check their vascular risk and provide them with an individual assessment, would be both clinically effective and cost-effective.

The next step is to develop an implementation and delivery programme with key stakeholders. We will be considering different options for delivering vascular checks involving a range of providers, including pharmacies.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have been contacted about bowel cancer screening by the bowel cancer screening system in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08; [200893]

(2) what percentage of people contacted about bowel cancer screening by the bowel cancer screening system participated in the bowel cancer screening programme in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08. [200894]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available prior to July 2006.

Roll-out of the national NHS bowel cancer screening programme only began in April 2006, with the first invitations sent out in July 2006. Full national implementation is expected by December 2009. Within the programme, men and women are sent an invitation letter a week before they are sent a testing kit to give them the opportunity to decline receiving a testing kit if they do not wish to receive one for personal or clinical reasons.

As at 31 March 2008, 1,185,791 men and women had been sent an invitation letter, 1,099,653 had been sent a testing kit, and 590,769 had completed and returned a testing kit. This represents 50 per cent. of those who had been sent an invitation letter, and 54 per cent. of those who had been sent a testing kit. In addition, 17,192 men and women aged 70 or over had been sent a testing kit on request.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) from where the NHS Connecting for Health: bowel cancer screening system draws its contact data; [200895]

(2) how often the dataset used by the NHS Connecting for Health: bowel cancer screening system is refreshed. [200896]

Ann Keen: The bowel cancer screening system draws its data from the National Health Applications Infrastructure Services (the 'Exeter' system), which contains the names and details of all people registered with a general practitioner in England. The system is refreshed on a daily basis.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to broaden the age range of the bowel cancer screening programme; [201175]

(2) what steps he plans to take to maximise up-take of bowel cancer screening among the target population; and what arrangements he has made to monitor the efficacy of the programme. [201176]

Ann Keen: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced in September 2007 the NHS bowel screening programme will be extended from 2010 to invite men and women aged 70 to 75 to take part.

A booklet entitled 'Bowel Cancer Screening: The Facts', which provides information about bowel cancer and sets out the benefits and risks of participating in the screening programme, is sent out with each invitation. It is important to remember that no screening method is perfect and anyone invited to be screened for cancer must be aware of both the potential benefits and harms of being screened and be able to make an informed decision on whether or not to take part.

It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their primary care trusts, local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate cancer screening services for their local populations, including the promotion of local screening services.

The NHS bowel screening programme currently reports weekly returns to the Department. We are working with the Information Centre to develop a framework for the annual publication of statistics related to the programme once roll-out is completed in December 2009.

Drugs: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the sources of the planned efficiency savings in the Pooled Drug Treatment Budget 2010-11 are; and if he will make a statement. [201814]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 2001, the Department and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB), which is allocated to the 149 drug action teams across the country to use, along with local mainstream funding, to provide treatment and services according to specific local needs.

The Department does not intend the funding made available through the PTB to represent the totality of funding for any area. Rather, it is designed to supplement mainstream funds and to encourage investment in improving treatment capacity and effectiveness.

The level of Government investment for substance misuse treatment within the PTB is £398 million for 2008-09, which is also the indicative figure for 2009-10 and 2010-11. However, we expect the reinvestment of the planned efficiency savings that will be made year on year until 2010-11 to reach £50 million. This reinvestment of the planned efficiency savings will allow for the expansion of treatment services to support the delivery of indicator 1 (number of drug users in effective treatment) in public service agreement 25.

Partnerships will be helped to deliver more effectively by:

changes to the allocation of the pooled treatment budget to match it more closely to activity;

the development of unit costs data to inform commissioning decisions;

improved processes for assessing local need to improve targeting; and

the national implementation of the treatment outcomes profile tool which will enable resources to be diverted to more effective interventions.

General Practioners: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner surgeries there were in the Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [201348]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* The information is not held in the format requested. The following table shows the number of general practitioner (GP) partnerships in the Peterborough primary care trust (PCT) area from 2001 to 2007 (a partnership may comprise a number of premises) and the number of GPs in the Peterborough PCT area from 2001 to 2007. Prior to 2001, no comparable information is available.

I am advised that Peterborough PCT is currently developing proposals for a new GP-led health centre to be opened in Peterborough next year.

Number of GP partnerships (P) and number of GPs (G) in Peterborough PCT area at 30 September for each specified year

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G
Peterborough PCT	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	27	94	27	98
North Peterborough PCT	20	55	18	57	18	60	18	61	18	59	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
South Peterborough PCT	13	53	14	52	14	56	15	61	15	65	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]

[1] Data not available.

Notes:

1. The GP Census collection does not contain data on number of surgeries. A partnership may comprise a number of premises.
2. 'G' includes full-time and part-time GPs.
3. Peterborough PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of North Peterborough PCT and a part merger of South Peterborough PCT. Due to this part merger, data from 2006 onwards are not directly comparable with data for 2001-05. Prior to 2001, no comparable information is available for this area.

Source:

Information Centre for health and social care—GP Census.

Health Services

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the personal relationship between general practitioners and patients in formulating primary care policy. [203367]

Alan Johnson: A patient's relationship with their family doctor is of vital importance. List-based general practice is a key strength of the system that we have. It is valued by patients, doctors and the national health service as a whole.

There is no contradiction between the desire by many patients to be seen by their own general practitioner and the £250 million investment we are making in expanding primary care provision particularly in under-doctored areas.

Health Services: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the public expenditure per capita on *(a)* primary care, *(b)* emergency care and *(c)* NHS dental provision in each constituency in the North West was in each year since 1997. [202896]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The information is not available in the format requested. The information is not collected at constituency level but has been provided by national health service body in the current North West Strategic Health Authority area. Data are available for the years 2000-01 to 2006-07.

The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Healthcare Commission: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from what date the time taken by the Healthcare Commission to deal with a complaint is measured. [202381]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand from the Healthcare Commission that it records the time taken for its reviews from the day it receives a new case. It takes on average three months for an independent review to be conducted.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* in-patient, *(b)* day and *(c)* out-patient appointments at (i) Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and (ii) Cheltenham General Hospital was in each year since 1992. [196419]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not held in the format requested. Information is collected about median waiting times at national health service trust level, rather than individual hospital level. Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and Cheltenham General Hospital are part of Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The following tables show median waiting times at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and, before 2002-03, at its predecessor trusts, Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust and East Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Median waiting times (in weeks) at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust

Period ending	*Daycase admissions*	*Ordinary admissions*	*First outpatient (OP) attendance (from general practitioner (GP) referral)*
March 2003	9.5	10.5	7.2
March 2004	9.1	10.3	5.9
March 2005	6.2	8.2	6.1
March 2006	6.0	7.5	5.8
March 2007	5.5	6.9	5.0
September 2007	4.4	6.3	5.1

Source:
KH07 and QM08 quarterly returns from NHS trusts.

Median waiting times (in weeks) at East Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust

Period ending	*Daycase admissions*	*Ordinary admission*	*First OP attendance (from GP referral)*
March 1992	8.0	10.8	n/a
March 1993	9.6	10.8	n/a
March 1994	8.4	9.8	3.6
March 1995	8.2	9.4	5.3
March 1996	8.1	9.0	6.0
March 1997	8.7	9.3	5.5
March 1998	10.3	12.3	5.0
March 1999	9.0	10.2	6.4
March 2000	10.8	11.0	7.1
March 2001	9.8	10.2	7.1
March 2002	11.3	9.8	6.8

Source:
KH07 and QM08 quarterly returns from NHS trusts.

Median waiting times (in weeks) at Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust

Period ending	*Daycase admission*	*Ordinary admission*	*(First OP attendance from GP referral)*
March 1992	n/a	n/a	n/a
March 1993	n/a	n/a	n/a
March 1994	10.9	11.2	3.9
March 1995	10.0	10.7	6.6
March 1996	9.5	9.5	6.3
March 1997	10.7	10.9	7.2
March 1998	11.0	11.0	6.8
March 1999	11.9	10.4	7.2
March 2000	10.3	12.0	7.5
March 2001	10.0	11.4	6.7
March 2002	9.1	12.8	6.9

Source:
KH07 and QM08 quarterly returns from NHS trusts.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each primary care trust in London waited for *(a)* three, *(b)* six, *(c)* nine, *(d)* 12, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 18, *(g)* 21 and *(h)* 24 weeks and over for out-patient admission in each quarter of each of the last five years. [200366]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held in the format requested. Data prior to 2006-07 were collected in grouped time bands of four-week waiting times. However, the waiting times measurement was changed from banded weeks to actual individual weeks for 2006-07 onwards as the maximum waiting times reduced.

The information available about the number of outpatients seen in each quarter, for each London primary care trust since 2002-03, has been placed in the Library.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's policy is on provision of aids and appliances for stoma patients; and if he will make a statement; [202693]

(2) what representations he has received from patient groups in response to the consultation about provision of aids and appliances for stoma patients; [202694]

(3) what the timetable is for his Department's consultation on provision of aids and appliances for stoma patients. [202695]

Dawn Primarolo: The general policy on appliances is that patients should receive cost-effective treatment to meet their clinical needs as established by appropriate national health service healthcare professionals.

Since the review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services began in October 2005, the following representations have been received from patient groups.

	Number
Ministerial meetings	3
Letters to Ministers	5
Meetings with officials	7

Note:
These figures do not include the numerous letters received directly from patients and their Members of Parliament.

The review is ongoing. A further consultation will be published in May 2008, together with an Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment, and will be open for 12 weeks.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 873W, on Ipsos MORI, which policy teams commissioned work from Ipsos MORI. [203034]

Mr. Bradshaw: From March 2006 to March 2008, the following directorates commissioned work from Ipsos MORI: Equality and Human Rights; Health Protection International Health and Scientific Development; Health Improvement and Protection; Commissioning and System Management; Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships; and NHS Finance, Performance and Operations and Communications.

Medical Records: Databases

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what datasets are recorded by primary care trusts for inclusion on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) system. [200888]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Health Application Infrastructure Service (NHAIS) comprises of four datasets which support: the recording and maintenance of patient demographics, that is name, national health service number, gender, date of birth and address; the payment of general practitioners, including practitioner and practice

details; the call or recall of women for cervical screening, as required by the national cervical screening programme; and the call or recall of women for breast screening, as required by the national breast screening programme. In addition, the NHAIS systems are a mechanism by which patients are able to opt in to being an organ donor.

Methadone

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1105W, on methadone, what the cost to primary care trusts of dispensing methadone prescriptions was in 2006-07. [200509]

Dawn Primarolo: The total net ingredient cost to primary care trusts in England of methadone prescriptions in 2006-07 was £15.7 million[1]. This does not include prescriptions written in hospitals or clinics that were dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals or private prescriptions.

Note:

Methadone can be prescribed as a cough suppressant, as an analgesic or for the treatment of addiction.

Source:

[1]The Electronic Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool system.

NHS: Finance

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the difference was between the weighted caption formula calculation and the final allocation for each primary care trust in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [200454]

Mr. Bradshaw: The table provides the final allocations made to primary care trusts (PCTs) for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the percentage distance, from target allocation set by the weighted-capitation formula for every PCT for the same period.

Revenue allocations are made to PCTs on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each PCT's target shares of available resources to enable them to commission similar levels of health care for populations in similar need.

The formula is used to set targets, which then inform allocations. The distance from target represents the actual allocation compared to the target allocation. It is the pace of change policy that determines actual allocations, as it dictates how quickly PCTs are brought nearer to target through the distribution of additional funds.

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
PCT name	Allocation (£000)	Closing distance from target (DFT) (percentage)	Allocation (£000)	Closing DFT (percentage)	Allocation (£000)	Closing DFT (percentage)
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	410,731	-2.3	449,115	-2.4	473,646	-2.40
Barking and Dagenham PCT	240,688	-4.8	267,023	-3.5	281,607	-3.50
Barnet PCT	425,930	8.3	460,640	6.9	485,800	6.90
Barnsley PCT	319,935	-4.5	353,531	-3.5	372,841	-3.50
Bassetlaw PCT	130,267	-4.8	144,874	-3.5	152,787	-3.50
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	206,371	0.9	224,569	0.4	236,835	0.40
Bedfordshire PCT	434,053	-4.4	483,955	-3.3	510,388	-3.30
Berkshire East PCT	429,771	1.6	467,641	1.4	493,184	1.40
Berkshire West PCT	477,657	-0.4	521,310	-0.5	549,784	-0.50
Bexley Care Trust	258,661	0.6	281,904	0.3	297,301	0.30
Birmingham East and North PCT	551,721	-3.1	606,916	-2.2	640,065	-2.20
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	207,706	-3.6	227,152	-3.2	239,559	-3.20
Blackpool PCT	213,766	0.5	232,537	0.2	245,239	0.20
Bolton PCT	355,301	-2.1	388,481	-2	409,700	-2.00
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	418,982	0.8	455,410	0.5	480,284	0.50
Bradford and Airedale PCT	655,461	-0.6	713,986	-1.1	752,984	-1.10
Brent Teaching PCT	407,601	5.3	440,836	4.8	464,915	4.80
Brighton and Hove City PCT	349,706	0	381,965	0.2	402,828	0.20
Bristol PCT	526,977	1.5	571,181	1	602,379	1.00
Bromley PCT	373,188	4.4	403,632	3.2	425,678	3.20
Buckinghamshire PCT	524,765	-0.4	573,490	-0.3	604,814	-0.30
Bury PCT	226,689	-2.3	247,864	-2.2	261,403	-2.20
Calderdale PCT	254,621	3.4	275,396	2.6	290,438	2.60
Cambridgeshire PCT	622,584	-2.1	685,883	-2.1	723,346	-2.10
Camden PCT	368,783	7.4	398,858	5.6	420,633	5.60
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	522,824	1.6	571,132	1.2	602,327	1.20
Central Lancashire PCT	556,430	0.9	607,500	0.6	640,682	0.60
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	380,906	-3.3	416,671	-3.5	439,429	-3.50

PCT name	2006-07 Allocation (£000)	2006-07 Closing distance from target (DFT) (percentage)	2007-08 Allocation (£000)	2007-08 Closing DFT (percentage)	2008-09 Allocation (£000)	2008-09 Closing DFT (percentage)
Cornwall and Islés Of Scilly PCT	645,556	-3.4	710,827	-3.3	749,652	-3.30
County Durham PCT	711,825	-2.2	784,201	-1.2	827,034	-1.20
Coventry Teaching PCT	425,221	-4.9	469,451	-3.5	495,092	-3.50
Croydon PCT	424,028	3	458,633	1.9	483,683	1.90
Cumbria PCT	632,547	-0.1	689,160	-0.5	726,801	-0.50
Darlington PCT	136,390	6.6	147,509	5.5	155,566	5.50
Derby City PCT	329,454	-3.2	361,115	-2.9	380,839	-2.90
Derbyshire County PCT	841,060	-1.3	922,913	-1.1	973,323	-1.10
Devon PCT	871,595	-0.7	956,903	-0.8	1,009,169	-0.80
Doncaster PCT	401,609	-2	439,103	-1.9	463,087	-1.90
Dorset PCT	467,804	-1	512,900	-1.1	540,915	-1.10
Dudley PCT	373,359	-0.6	407,037	-0.7	429,270	-0.70
Ealing PCT	444,899	7.5	481,157	6.7	507,438	6.70
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	608,574	-1.9	667,728	-1.9	704,199	-1.90
East Lancashire PCT	506,236	-1	553,338	-0.8	583,561	-0.80
East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT	345,739	-1.7	380,204	-1.8	400,971	-1.80
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	421,307	3.4	458,443	2.6	483,483	2.60
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	917,451	-1.3	1,013,331	-0.9	1,068,679	-0.90
Enfield PCT	351,514	0.1	384,190	0.1	405,175	0.10
Gateshead PCT	286,689	-0.6	313,317	-0.1	330,431	-0.10
Gloucestershire PCT	669,670	0.8	731,208	0.5	771,146	0.50
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	286,026	-5.1	319,752	-3.5	337,217	-3.50
Greenwich Teaching PCT	344,632	2.1	372,379	0.7	392,719	0.70
Halton and St Helens PCT	434,697	-1.8	474,176	-1.8	500,076	-1.80
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	265,137	7.1	286,377	6	302,019	6.00
Hampshire PCT	1,404,036	1	1,531,884	0.6	1,615,555	0.60
Haringey Teaching PCT	346,339	1	375,205	0.5	395,698	0.50
Harrow PCT	255,367	8.1	276,176	7.2	291,261	7.20
Hartlepool PCT	131,905	-2.9	144,243	-2.8	152,122	-2.80
Hastings and Rother PCT	248,194	2.6	270,154	2.1	284,910	2.10
Havering PCT	303,017	0.3	331,028	0.2	349,109	0.20
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	410,557	-4.7	454,255	-3.5	479,066	-3.50
Herefordshire PCT	202,786	-5.1	226,439	-3.5	238,807	-3.50
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	288,702	-1.8	316,327	-1.5	333,605	-1.50
Hillingdon PCT	308,041	4.5	333,169	3.4	351,367	3.40
Hounslow PCT	298,309	5.3	322,634	4.7	340,256	4.70
Hull PCT	371,301	0.9	401,457	0.6	423,384	0.60
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	185,563	-3.7	204,994	-3.5	216,191	-3.50
Islington PCT	336,943	9.8	363,928	8.4	383,806	8.40
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	275,175	7.9	297,613	4.9	313,868	4.90
Kingston PCT	202,727	10.6	219,238	9.2	231,213	9.20
Kirklees PCT	485,093	1.1	527,512	0.7	556,324	0.70
Knowsley PCT	243,375	-4.8	268,697	-3.5	283,374	-3.50
Lambeth PCT	467,660	13.3	505,097	12.6	532,686	12.60
Leeds PCT	952,025	3.7	1,032,366	3.2	1,088,754	3.20
Leicester City PCT	386,947	-4.1	424,964	-3.2	448,176	-3.20
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	663,407	-2.6	730,485	-2.3	770,384	-2.30
Lewisham PCT	397,785	12.1	429,633	11.4	453,100	11.40
Lincolnshire PCT	829,240	-3.9	922,602	-3.1	972,995	-3.10
Liverpool PCT	733,222	-3.8	803,354	-3	847,234	-3.00
Luton PCT	223,068	-5.1	247,703	-3.5	261,233	-3.50
Manchester PCT	735,995	-4.9	815,430	-3.3	859,969	-3.30
Medway PCT	304,301	-5.1	340,701	-3.5	359,310	-3.50
Mid Essex PCT	365,484	-3.3	405,722	-2.3	427,883	-2.30

PCT name	2006-07 Allocation (£000)	2006-07 Closing distance from target (DFT) (percentage)	2007-08 Allocation (£000)	2007-08 Closing DFT (percentage)	2008-09 Allocation (£000)	2008-09 Closing DFT (percentage)
Middlesbrough PCT	208,045	2.3	228,340	-1.5	240,812	-1.50
Milton Keynes PCT	247,043	-5.1	277,919	-3.5	293,098	-3.50
Newcastle PCT	386,439	2.2	417,413	1.6	440,212	1.60
Newham PCT	415,179	-3.2	454,046	-3.2	478,846	-3.20
Norfolk PCT	839,936	-3.4	932,449	-2.4	983,379	-2.40
North East Essex PCT	381,624	-4.2	422,921	-3.3	446,026	-3.30
North East Lincolnshire PCT	210,372	0.3	229,114	0.2	241,629	0.20
North Lancashire PCT	418,760	0.1	456,349	-0.5	481,275	-0.50
North Lincolnshire PCT	190,441	-1.8	208,972	-1.7	220,386	-1.70
North Somerset PCT	225,201	-5.1	251,427	-3.5	265,159	-3.50
North Staffordshire PCT	255,312	0.7	278,040	0.4	293,227	0.40
North Tees PCT	228,058	-4.8	253,743	-3.5	267,603	-3.50
North Tyneside PCT	273,205	0	298,390	0	314,688	0.00
North Yorkshire and York PCT	870,019	0.8	947,379	0.2	999,125	0.20
Northamptonshire PCT	730,405	-5	817,249	-3.7	861,887	-3.70
Northumberland Care Trust	399,055	0.5	434,542	0.2	458,277	0.20
Nottingham City PCT	396,017	-0.2	430,928	0	454,466	0.00
Nottinghamshire County PCT	766,008	-0.8	839,335	-0.6	885,179	-0.60
Oldham PCT	304,145	-3.1	332,588	-2.7	350,754	-2.70
Oxfordshire PCT	663,385	0.3	727,498	0.2	767,234	0.20
Peterborough PCT	200,369	1.6	226,047	4.4	238,393	4.40
Plymouth Teaching PCT	320,442	0.9	348,433	0.5	367,464	0.50
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	232,225	-0.2	253,929	0	267,799	0.00
Redbridge PCT	292,512	1.4	317,506	0.6	334,848	0.60
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	189,438	-0.7	206,163	-0.7	217,424	-0.70
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	224,520	14.5	242,789	13	256,050	13.00
Rotherham PCT	330,233	-1.2	361,022	-1.2	380,741	-1.20
Salford PCT	346,814	1.5	374,615	0.9	395,076	0.90
Sandwell PCT	422,253	-3.6	461,941	-3	487,172	-3.00
Sefton PCT	389,658	2.2	424,393	2.1	447,574	2.10
Sheffield PCT	721,813	4.3	783,833	4.1	826,646	4.10
Shropshire County PCT	331,198	-1	363,336	-0.8	383,181	-0.80
Solihull Care Trust	236,950	-0.8	259,370	-0.4	273,537	-0.40
Somerset PCT	598,119	-3	661,858	-2.3	698,008	-2.30
South Birmingham PCT	467,293	-0.3	510,764	-0.1	538,661	-0.10
South East Essex PCT	405,020	-0.4	441,775	-0.8	465,904	-0.80
South Gloucestershire PCT	250,189	-0.9	275,190	-0.8	290,221	-0.80
South Staffordshire PCT	653,701	-1.6	716,139	-1.6	755,254	-1.60
South Tyneside PCT	222,991	-2.1	243,791	-1.4	257,107	-1.40
South West Essex PCT	473,017	-3.5	525,622	-2.3	554,331	-2.30
Southampton City PCT	295,218	-2.4	323,249	-2.1	340,905	-2.10
Southwark PCT	401,542	3.9	433,721	3.2	457,410	3.20
Stockport PCT	349,861	1.1	379,343	0.7	400,063	0.70
Stoke On Trent PCT	360,415	-0.7	392,763	-0.5	414,216	-0.50
Suffolk PCT	659,034	-2.5	726,691	-2	766,383	-2.00
Sunderland Teaching PCT	413,283	0.6	449,010	0.3	473,535	0.30
Surrey PCT	1,234,594	6	1,335,260	4.9	1,408,192	4.90
Sutton and Merton PCT	459,723	5.8	497,211	4.6	524,369	4.60
Swindon PCT	223,813	0.8	243,943	0.3	257,267	0.30
Tameside and Glossop PCT	308,593	-0.4	337,310	-0.3	355,733	-0.30
Telford and Wrekin PCT	187,621	-5.1	209,334	-3.5	220,768	-3.50
Torbay Care Trust	185,688	-5.1	207,397	-3.5	218,725	-3.50
Tower Hamlets PCT	360,074	-3.6	395,521	-3.5	417,125	-3.50
Trafford PCT	275,442	3	299,535	2.8	315,896	2.80
Wakefield District PCT	444,541	-2.5	489,186	-2	515,905	-2.00
Walsall Teaching PCT	342,196	-0.9	374,066	-0.7	394,497	-0.70
Waltham Forest PCT	320,806	1.3	347,335	0.8	366,306	0.80
Wandsworth PCT	388,415	12.7	420,027	11.9	442,968	11.90
Warrington PCT	237,103	0.1	259,050	-0.1	273,199	-0.10

PCT name	2006-07 Allocation (£000)	2006-07 Closing distance from target (DFT) (percentage)	2007-08 Allocation (£000)	2007-08 Closing DFT (percentage)	2008-09 Allocation (£000)	2008-09 Closing DFT (percentage)
Warwickshire PCT	592,423	-2.4	652,206	-2.1	687,830	-2.10
West Essex PCT	313,574	1.8	340,399	0.8	358,991	0.80
West Hertfordshire PCT	627,084	3.4	679,655	2.6	716,778	2.60
West Kent PCT	760,523	0	810,316	0	854,576	0.00
West Sussex PCT	952,453	3.2	1,034,023	2.4	1,090,501	2.40
Western Cheshire PCT	303,849	0	332,116	0	350,256	0.00
Westminster PCT	367,029	14.8	396,902	11.6	418,581	11.60
Wiltshire PCT	490,847	-0.1	539,616	-0.1	569,089	-0.10
Wirral PCT	459,538	0.5	500,617	0.3	527,960	0.30
Wolverhampton City PCT	326,781	-4.8	360,656	-3.5	380,355	-3.50
Worcestershire PCT	617,658	-2.2	679,281	-1.8	716,383	-1.80

NHS: Negligence

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* legal costs and *(b)* damages awarded in respect of clinical negligence cases involving the NHS in each of the last three years. [200434]

Ann Keen: The information requested is in the following table. The information was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority's published accounts.

Year claim closed	Damages	Defence legal costs	£ Claimant legal costs
2005-06	412,245,050	54,394,083	91,252,864
2006-07	332,786,934	49,808,394	83,830,905
2007-08	384,841,739	56,848,517	108,921,201

Notes:
1. The data only cover claims made against national health service trusts, NHS foundation trusts or primary care trusts.
2. The year represents the year the claim closed, not the year of incident nor the year the claim was made.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence cases the NHS *(a)* won and *(b)* lost in each of the last three financial years. [200435]

Ann Keen: The information requested is in the following table and was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA).

Number of claims won and lost by the NHSLA by year claims were closed

Year claim closed	Number of claims—nil damages 'won'	Number of claims with damages 'lost'
2005-06	3,541	3,564
2006-07	3,330	3,209
2007-08	3,054	3,630

Notes:
1. The data only cover claims made against national health services trusts, NHS foundation trusts or primary care trusts.
2. Claims 'won' are claims where the NHSLA did not pay damages. Claims 'lost' are claims where the NHSLA paid damages.
3. The numbers represent the number of cases closed per year, not the number of incidents reported per year nor the number of claims made in a year.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of clinical negligence litigation involving the NHS there were in each of the last three financial years; and how many of those cases were financed by legal aid. [200436]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) provided the data requested in the following table. The data only cover claims relating to national health service trusts, NHS foundation trusts, and primary care trusts.

Number of clinical negligence claims received 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008 and their claimant funding as at 31 March 2008

NHSLA notification year	Before the event insurance	Conditional fee arrangement	Legal services commission	Self funded	Not identified	Total
2005-06	273	1,346	1,537	670	1,872	5,700
2006-07	329	1,503	1,313	597	1,678	5,420
2007-08	319	1,501	965	489	2,196	5,470
Total	923	4,350	3,815	1,756	5,746	16,590

Note:
Claimants are only required to provide details of funding arrangements if a case proceeds to court.

NHS: Questionnaires

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 207W, on NHS questionnaires, how many responses were received for each of the four surveys carried out by Ipsos MORI on behalf of his Department in the financial year 2007-08. [201400]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is as follows:

General practitioner patient survey

Survey results for Access and Choice are in the process of being collated and analysed. Results will be published in July 2008.

What matters to Staff survey

A total of 9,080 questionnaires were returned from trusts and general practice staff.

National patient choice survey

Results for wave 7 (May 2007) based on 75,191 respondents;

Results for wave 8 (July 2007) based on 62,264 respondents;

Results for wave 9 (September 2007) based on 92,545 respondents; and

Results for wave 10 (November 2007) based on 77,804 respondents.

18 Weeks patient experience pilot

The 18 weeks patient experience pilot was managed as two phases during 2007-08. In phase 1, there were 1,580 respondents. In phase 2, there were 18,656 respondents.

Nursery Nurses: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified community nursery nurses were employed in each primary care trust in each year for which figures are available. [202982]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* Information on the number of qualified nursery nurses in community services employed by each primary care trust in England since 1995 has been placed in the Library.

Obesity

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the first annual review on progress towards meeting targets under the New Ambition on Healthy Weight initiative. [203612]

Dawn Primarolo: The first annual review of progress towards meeting targets under the new ambition on healthy weight initiative will be published in spring 2009.

Osteoporosis: Females

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to provide women with accurate information on how to prevent osteoporotic fractures post-menopause; and if he will make a statement. [200369]

Ann Keen: Through the NHS Choices website, we are providing the public with information to help them make informed decisions about their health, lifestyle choices and any treatments that they need. This includes information on lifestyle factors that may prevent osteoporosis, osteoporosis treatments and advice to reduce the risk of falling.

NHS Choices contains evidence-based information drawn from sources such as NHS Direct and the National Electronic Library for Health and ensures that health professionals are able to refer their patients to a comprehensive source of information that is quality assured.

Osteoporosis: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of treating fractures resulting from osteoporosis in London, broken down by primary care trust area in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [200368]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, information is available on the average cost to national health service providers of providing a range of fracture treatments. This information is collected each year through the NHS reference cost collection exercise. Copies of the national schedule of reference costs for 2006-07, "NHS Reference Costs 2006-07", are available in the Library. The information is also available on the Departments website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH082571

Pharmacy

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the procedure for considering applications to open pharmacies within the areas of dispensing GP practices. [203376]

Dawn Primarolo: Current arrangements in rural areas reflect previous agreements between representative bodies of pharmacists and doctors.

Our White Paper 'Pharmacy in England, Building on strengths, delivering the future' sets out a number of proposals for structural reform including market entry. We are currently holding public events to hear views on these on which there will be full consultation later this summer.

Prescriptions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Information Centre to publish proposals for the use of practice-level prescribing data, as announced in the Information Centre's presentation to the Inaugural Supplier Forum of 7 November 2007; whether he intends to ask the Information Centre to consult on these proposals; and if he will make a statement. [195270]

Dawn Primarolo: The Information Centre for health and social care agreed to produce a review document seeking to determine whether it will be possible to make practice-level prescribing data more accessible to the private sector with due regard to appropriate legislation, current departmental policy and the professional regulations of those involved in the supply of prescriptions.

This review is ongoing and there are currently no proposals for the release of practice-level prescribing data or any anticipated dates for changes to the current position.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the actions of the Human Tissue Authority in the case of Laura Ashworth and Rachel Leake; and if he will make a statement. [200678]

Ann Keen: The Human Tissue Act 2004 places responsibility on the Human Tissue Authority for implementing the consent requirements of the Act, which cover consent for the transplantation of organs.

There has been a long established principle that donated organs from deceased donors are matched and allocated to the person on the transplant waiting list who is most in need and who provides the best match.

Tuberculosis: Medical Treatments

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department has allocated to developing more effective treatments for drug-resistant tuberculosis. [203364]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) arises mostly from either poor or incomplete previous treatment of TB. The key to tackling drug resistance is to prevent it developing in the first place, and our strategy is focused on strengthening national health service TB services to improve early case detection and completion of treatment.

The TB Toolkit launched last year provides models of best practice for the national health service to deliver TB services. We have also funded the British Thoracic Society to establish a clinical advisory network to advise on treatment of drug-resistant cases. We are also funding work to raise awareness of TB among health care professionals and groups at higher risk of TB.

Urology: Medical Equipment

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will list each of the consultations undertaken on the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances, giving in each case the dates of commencement and closure; when he expects the process to be complete; how much is has cost; and if he will make a statement; [202348]

(2) how the opinions of patients has been sought in the consultations conducted on the provision of stoma and incontinence products; and if he will make a statement. [202349]

Dawn Primarolo: The current review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—in primary care began in October 2005 and has followed the following timetable:

Consultation	*Opened*	*Closed*	*Key purpose*
Arrangements for the provision of dressings, incontinence appliances, stoma appliances, chemical reagents and other appliances to primary and secondary care	24 October 2005	23 January 2006	Joint consultation; setting out objectives
Arrangements for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related support services to patients under Part IX of the Drug Tariff	27 July 2006	11 September 2006	Sought views on service specification and broad classification
Arrangements for the reimbursement pricing of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff	23 November 2006	2 April 2007	Sought views on classification of items and reduction in reimbursement
Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff	23 November 2006	2 April 2007	Sought views on service provision and remuneration for same
Proposed amendments to the Regulatory Terms of Service of Pharmacy and Appliance Contractors in relation to dispensing items listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff	5 March 2007	2 April 2007	Given proposed service provision, sought views on amendments to terms of service
Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to primary care, revised proposals.	6 September 2007	28 December 2007	Sought views on new proposals relating to reimbursement, service provision and remuneration - and terms of service

A further consultation will be published in May 2008, together with an impact assessment and equality impact assessment, and will be open for 12 weeks. No statement can be made as to when the process will be complete until that consultation has concluded.

Costs to date have been £2.4 million, but this does include the work that was done on chemical reagents and dressings in 2005 and 2006. These costs were for the services of professional advisers. The Department's costs are part of its ongoing operational budget.

The new arrangements for reagents and dressings which came into effect in October 2006 are delivering savings of £24 million year to primary care.

A wide range of patients groups have been involved in the consultation process and users have helped to inform policy at every stage.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department made to AS Biss and Company in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202276]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development has made one single payment to AS Biss and Company of £42,652 in August 2006 for a study on how "DFID has succeeded in influencing multilateral working in the Western Balkans".

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201728]

Gillian Merron: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 77 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 25, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1381W, on departmental ICT, how many of the lost or stolen *(a)* laptops and *(b)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by his Department; and at what cost. [202507]

Mr. Malik: The information is as follows.

Item	*Number lost, missing or stolen (since 2001)*	*Number replaced*	*Cost of replacement (£)*
Personal digital assistant (PDA)	2	2	240
Laptop	32	32	25,824

The Department for International (DFID) has a large mobile workforce that requires the tools to enable them to work remotely. Laptops and PDA's are essential business tools for them and as such they are replaced if the originals are lost or stolen.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1182W, on the Departmental internet, whether Wikipedia entries have been created or amended by officials in his Department who are not special advisers or communications officials. [199951]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) Officials (excluding special advisers and communication officials) have from time to time updated Wikipedia entries, and may also have created entries. In addition to the legitimate benefit that such activities can have in terms of knowledge and information sharing, DFID's IT policy also allows private use of the web, including Wikipedia, by staff in their own time, provided such activity is in line with the Civil Service Code.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200708]

Gillian Merron: In respect of members of the defined benefit schemes, employer contribution rates are assessed for each of four ranges of pay levels. The rates for 2008-09 are:

Band	*Full-time annual salary(£)*	*Rate from 1 April 2008 (percentage)*
Band 1	19,500 and under	17.1
Band 2	19,501 to 40,500	19.5
Band 3	40,501 to 69,000	23.2
Band 4	69,001 and above	25.5

The scheme rules are laid before Parliament and copies are in the House Library.

For members of the partnership (defined contribution scheme), the employer pays a basic contribution of between 3 per cent. and 12.5 per cent. (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product and will match the

member's contribution up to a limit of 3 per cent. Employers also contribute a further 0.8 per cent. of pensionable salary to cover the cost of risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

For 2007-08 Department for International Development (DFID) paid employers' contributions of £13,995,973.

Information on previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the findings and options of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development reports to be presented to the Intergovernmental Plenary; and what steps he plans to take in tackling hunger, rural poverty and environmental degradation in the light of that assessment. [199555]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) is a unique assessment involving governments, civil society and academics. The IAASTD reports are a useful contribution to the debate and understanding on agricultural knowledge, science and technology and its potential to reduce poverty and hunger around the world. Given increasing food prices and their impact on poor people they are also very timely. However, while presenting an overall consensus the IAASTD reports do reflect a diversity of views on some issues, for example on modern biotechnology.

My Department will be considering the options presented by the IAASTD and the implications this has for the UK's support to developing countries on agricultural research to help tackle hunger, rural poverty and environmental degradation. Many of the issues raised by the IAASTD, for example land degradation and impact of agricultural trade on poor farmers have already been identified by DFID, and are highlighted in our new five year research strategy which I launched on 22 April.

Developing Countries: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage developing countries to provide education to girls as well as boys. [202527]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The UK Government have committed £8.5 billion for education over the 10 years to 2015-16 in support of education sector plans in developing countries.

The Department for International Development works with developing country governments to ensure gender equality is effectively addresses in education sector plans to ensure that girls, as well as boys, benefit. Our work with international and non-governmental organisations like UNICEF and the United Nations Girls Education Initiative, tackles social and economic barriers outside the education system that hinder girls' participation.

Last July (2007), the Prime Minister and United Nations' Secretary General Ban Ki Moon launched an MDG Call to Action to urge the international community to accelerate actions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals—including the Education goals. Girls' education is central to both the Education MDG and the Maternal Mortality MDG—both of which are key pillars of the Call to Action.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to assist developing countries in the funding of education. [202528]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The UK Government have committed £8.5 billion for education in developing countries over the 10 years to 2015-16. During the French President Sarkozy's recent visit to London, the UK and France agreed to each help support 8 million children in school by 2010.

The UK Government are actively engaged in galvanising international political action in support of Education for All. The G8 reaffirmed its commitment that no country committed to Education for All will be thwarted in their efforts through lack of resources, and we continue to urge other donors to meet their promises on education.

Education is one of the key pillars of the Call to Action. We are working with the United Nations and other donors to accelerate action in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We hope to see a concrete Action Plan being agreed at the international conference, being held in New York on 25 September.

Gaza: Politics and Government

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of *(a)* the humanitarian situation in Gaza and *(b)* the effectiveness of the international community's policies to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza over the last two years. [199670]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government are extremely concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. 64 per cent. of Gaza's population is at least partly dependent on food aid and 90 per cent. of mains water is polluted. Access through crossings between Gaza and Israel remains restricted although limited deliveries of emergency food aid, medicines and commercial items have been allowed in. However, the size and frequency of these deliveries are insufficient to meet the broader needs of the population.

The problem is not a lack of support from the international community, rather the continued restrictions on access to Gaza.

The European Commission (EC) created the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) in 2006. Before the TIM was subsumed into the new PEGASE mechanism in March 2007, the EC and European Union members provided €455 million (£361 million) of funding through it. The TIM was a successful emergency assistance mechanism and PEGASE will

continue to provide an effective means of supporting essential services and the livelihoods of key, frontline workers. Further international community support over the past two years has been channelled through UN agencies and NGOs providing humanitarian assistance and supporting basic services.

In response to restrictions on imports into Gaza the UK and others have consistently encouraged the Government of Israel to facilitate the provision of humanitarian support. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I released a statement to this effect on 8 February and we continue to raise the matter with the Israeli authorities.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether funding for public sector salaries and the maintenance of basic services in Gaza is being provided by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank; and what contribution is being made from the UK aid budget. [200123]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Palestinian Authority provides funding for basic services such as health and education in Gaza, paying the salaries of public sector workers. During 2007-08, the UK contributed £38.45 million for Palestinian Authority services and employees in both Gaza and the West Bank through the Temporary International Mechanism, PEGASE and the new World Bank Reform Trust Fund.

India: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds his Department provided to the *(a)* Food and Drug Capacity Building Project, *(b)* Orissa Health Systems Development Project, *(c)* Second National Aids Control Project, *(d)* Malaria Control Project and *(e)* Tuberculosis Control Project in India in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08. [203569]

Mr. Malik: These five projects are World Bank projects that were the subject of a recent World Bank Detailed Implementation Review (DIR) which found indications of fraud and corruption. All the projects were funded by the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA). The UK provided around 10.4 per cent. of donor funds to IDA during the period in question. The World Bank's Board of Directors discussed the DIR on 13 March and endorsed World Bank and Government of India Action Plans to address problems identified in the DIR.

The Department for International Development (DFID) separately supports health projects in India through its bilateral programme. During these years, DFID supported the second phase of India's National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), through a multi-agency programme with the Government of India, UN agencies and civil society organisations. Total expenditure on this project was £4,949,875, £19,996,646, £28,606,262 and £12,032,842 in 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. DFID is reviewing its support to NACP to ensure that any implications for DFID funding from the DIR are being robustly addressed.

Kenya: HIV Infection

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent in Kenya on HIV/AIDS control in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08; and on what projects. [203570]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government's HIV/AIDS Programme in Kenya supports the implementation of a National HIV/AIDS Strategy which aims for universal access to prevention, treatment and care. In addition, our education programme has supported the integration of a successful HIV/AIDS prevention programme in 18,500 primary schools. Details of expenditure are detailed in the following table:

Projects	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*£ million 2007-08*
HIV and Aids Prevention and Care Project (HAPAC)	4.4	6.8	3.2	7.1	6.6	6.7	2.1
Primary School Action for Better Health	—	—	—	—	—	0.9	1.2
Social Marketing of Condoms	—	—	1	1.8	1.5	0.9	1.2

Latin America: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department's regional assistance plan (2008-11) for Latin America will be published. [203716]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) future support to Latin America will be provided through civil society organisations and international institutions. We will also continue to work on Brazil's global role in development. A summary of our programme will be produced and made publicly available (although this will not be in the form of a regional assistance plan). This document will be available by the end of 2008.

Palestinians: EU Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* budget, *(b)* objectives and *(c)* mechanisms for disbursement of aid to the Palestinians from the European Union's PEGASE fund are. [200076]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: For 2008 the European Commission has committed €300 million (£238 million) to PEGASE and member states are finalising their individual contributions.

There is no upper ceiling for PEGASE contributions. In March 2008 the UK provided £15.45 million through PEGASE to support public sector salaries.

PEGASE is designed to support the Palestinian Authority's three year Reform and Development programme (PROP). The PRDP will focus upon governance reform and development of the social, economic and public infrastructure sectors.

PEGASE covers the full European Commission programme of support to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as well as the former Temporary International Mechanism (TIM). PEGASE will widen the scope of the former TIM to cover support for private sector arrears and funding provided directly to the PA. PEGASE will retain comprehensive and secure monitoring and control systems that were put into place under the TIM.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of whether UNICEF funds donated to educational projects in Sri Lanka are being properly spent on those projects; and if he will make a statement. [202495]

Mr. Malik: As Sri Lanka is now a middle income country, there is no UK bilateral aid programme of support to Sri Lanka. The Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral programme ended in March 2007.

Instead, DFID works in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) to provide peace building support to Sri Lanka by pooling funds through the conflict prevention pool (CPP). DFID does not currently fund any UNICEF education projects.

Through the conflict prevention pool, the UK funds UNICEF's human rights and poverty programme called "Children Affected by Armed Conflict".

To ensure that conflict prevention pool funds are properly spent, projects are regularly monitored by the High Commission in Colombo and three UK Government Departments responsible for the pooled funds in the UK. Quarterly reviews are conducted jointly by the High Commission and the three departments in London. An internal annual review of projects is also conducted.

Sudan: Food Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on the effect of increased levels of banditry in Darfur on the delivery of food supplies, and in particular the World Food Programme; and how many *(a)* people and *(b)* children this has put at risk. [202490]

Gillian Merron: Due to increased levels of banditry, the World Food Programme (WFP) is currently delivering 900 metric tons per day to WFP warehouses, only half as much food as is needed in Darfur

The WFP provided food to 3.1 million people in March, including 2.4 million in Darfur. 1.6 million of the total were children, including 1.2 million in Darfur. This is likely to rise as the rainy season begins in May/June. The WFP will cut rations of cereals, pulses and sugar for Darfur by half in May. Rations will therefore have 42 per cent. less calorific value.

To mitigate this, WFP will continue to provide blanket feeding for children under five in targeted areas in South and West Darfur, and plans to introduce this throughout North Darfur, where the highest malnutrition rates were reported in 2007. It will resume school feeding when schools reopen in June.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what arrangements exist for UK-based law enforcement agencies to investigate allegations of misconduct by *(a)* British nationals and *(b)* nationals of other countries, other than Iraq, who are employees of private military or security companies contracted to work in Iraq by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [203693]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

If any personnel employed by organisations contracted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) were suspected of committing a crime in Iraq but appeared to be immune from Iraqi legal process, the FCO would refer them to the disciplinary authority of their employing organisation with a view to having them removed from our contract in Iraq and would also bring the matter to the attention of the UK police and/or the authorities of the individual's nationality. The decision whether to pursue a criminal investigation and ultimately whether a prosecution should be undertaken in an individual case would be a matter for the police and prosecuting authorities, acting independently from the Government.

In the case of suspected non-criminal misconduct, we would take up the matter with the employing organisation, and either investigate the matter or have the employing organisation do so and report back to us, depending on the circumstances and the nature of the allegations.

JUSTICE

Departmental Freedom of Information

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* has been spent by the Information Commissioner's Office and *(b)* paid to the Commissioner's counsel in relation to the appeals to the Information Tribunal relating to freedom of information requests made by (i) Campaign Against Arms Trade (EA/2007/40) and (ii) Nicholas Gilby (EA/2007/71/78/79). [202721]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner is an independent body created by statute with responsibility for handling complaints made to him under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Commissioner's Office does not maintain separate records of the total internal cost incurred for handling each case where his decision on a complaint is appealed to the Information Tribunal.

The total paid to counsel by the Commissioner for the appeals made by the Campaign against the Arms Trade and by Nicholas Gilby was £12,337.51. Parts of the appeals were heard together as evidence was provided by the same witness. Therefore the amount paid to counsel covered both appeals and was not billed or invoiced separately.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time posts in his Department were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in each of the last three years. [200667]

Bridget Prentice: The number of unfilled permanent posts being filled temporarily is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. However, information on contractors, consultants and Agency staff excluding Public Sector Prison Service covering full-time and part-time vacancies or other posts engaged for more than six-months is reflected in the table as follows.

Ministry of Justice (excluding Public Sector Prison Service)—Contractors and Agency staff in posts in excess of six months over the past 3 financial years

Headcount

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Ministry of Justice' Headquarters (former Department for Constitutional Affairs)			
Contractor	1	0	7
Agency staff member	1	1	2
Ministry of Justice' Agencies National Offender Management Service			
Contractor	26	0	5
Agency staff member	17	13	17
Ministry of Justice' Agencies Office of Criminal Justice Reform			
Contractor	44	2	4
Agency staff member	2	3	0
Ministry of Justice total (excluding Public Sector Prison Service)	91	19	35

Notes:
1. The information held does not reflect these contractors, consultants and Agency staff filling permanent, vacant posts on a temporary basis.
2. The information reflects contractors, consultants and Agency staff excluding Public Sector Prison Service covering full-time and part-time vacancies or other posts engaged for more than six-months.

Electoral Register

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what evidence there is that a move to individual registration would increase under-registration of those who are legally entitled to vote. [203026]

Bridget Prentice: The only comparable evidence that a move to individual registration would increase under registration in Great Britain is what happened in Northern Ireland. The Electoral Commission report, 'Electoral Registration in Northern Ireland', published in 2004, found a decrease of 10 per cent. in the number of names included on the August 2002 register and the December 2002 register, equating to approximately 120,000 fewer names. Since this time the situation has improved, as demonstrated by ONS figures which confirm the number of electors for 2007 grew by 50,078 (4.7 per cent.) to 1,120,343 for parliamentary elections and by 50,857 (4.7 per cent.) to 1,125,935 for local government elections.

The report concluded that the system of registration could make it difficult for specific groups in society to access the electoral process. These included young people and students, people with learning disabilities and other forms of disability and those living in areas of high social deprivation.

Any new system of electoral registration in GB would need to be tailored to current circumstances, and in particular would need to address the challenge of under-registration in GB, where an estimated 3.5 million eligible electors are not registered to vote.

We are already committed to the principle of individual registration. But this would be a far-reaching reform, and it would need to be undertaken with great care—both to make sure a new system is robust, and to ensure that it properly tackles the problem of under-registration.

Our vision for electoral registration is clear: We want to protect the rights of every eligible person to participate in the United Kingdom's democratic process by ensuring complete, accurate and secure electoral registration.

Electoral Register: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the technical specifications of the Co-ordinated Online Record of Electors' database will allow the introduction of individual electoral registration. [203139]

Mr. Wills: Any work that is carried out in respect of individual registration will be done on its own merits, and is not reliant on the progress of the CORE Project.

A final decision as to the scope and specification of the CORE project will be made once an analysis of both the business and user requirements has been made. However, in accordance with good practice on the management of projects, any database that is developed will be, as far as is possible, capable of adapting to future requirements that may be anticipated.

Fraud: Elections

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions were brought against Commonwealth citizens for voting in UK elections when they did not have indefinite leave to remain in the UK in the last two years. [202922]

Bridget Prentice: Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, all Commonwealth citizens who are lawfully resident in the UK may vote in UK elections. It is a matter for local electoral officers to ensure they have included eligible persons on their electoral registers, and to take appropriate action where it is thought that electoral law has been breached. My Department does not hold central data on the numbers of prosecutions brought against persons voting at UK elections who are not eligible to do so.

Land Registry Board: Pay

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what change in pay each member of the Land Registry Board received in each of the last five years, giving the percentage change in each case. [203160]

Mr. Wills: Pay for Land Registry staff in the Senior Civil Service (SCS), including Board members, is governed by a centrally determined pay system for which the Cabinet Office is responsible. Land Registry, along with all other departments and agencies, applies the pay system to its SCS members of staff in accordance with the guidance provided by the Cabinet Office. The level of SCS base pay awards and bonuses are recommended to the government each year by an independent review body, the Senior Salaries Review Body.

The following table, taken from the audited accounts of Land Registry's annual report and accounts from 2002-03 to 2006-07, covers the gross salary and bonuses received during the financial year for each executive member of the Land Registry Board. In accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual issued by HM Treasury, Land Registry discloses the salary details of each director, including any allowances, in bands of £5,000. Presentation in this form is required in order to comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

As the answer is necessarily restricted to pay bands, providing percentage changes year on year for individual directors is inappropriate. The salary details of Land Registry directors for 2007-08 will be available in similar bandings when this year's annual report and accounts has been audited. Copies will be laid before Parliament before the summer recess.

£ thousand

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Chief Land Registrar and Chief Executive	115-120	125-130	135-140	145-150	150-155
Deputy Chief Executive and Business Development Director	100-105	105-110	110-115	115-120	125-130
Director of Operations	80-85	95-100	100-105	110-115	120-125
Director of Legal Services	90-95	100-105	110-115	115-120	120-125
Director of Human Resources	65-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	95-100
Finance Director	75-80	80-85	80-85	85-90	90-95
Director of Information Systems	65-70	70-75	75-80	[1]35-40	90-95
				[1]50-55	

[1] Reflects change in Director of Information Systems during year
Source:
Audited accounts for 2005-06

Legal Opinion: Standards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to improve the transparency of law firms' no-win no-fee offers. [203304]

Bridget Prentice: The regulation of agreements between solicitors and their clients is a matter for the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). Under the SRA's Code of Conduct, solicitors are required to provide clients with the information necessary to make appropriate decisions about if, and how, their matter should proceed. Clients should also be given the best information possible about the likely costs and other charges both at the outset and, when appropriate, as the matter progresses. Where the code is not complied with the SRA can, and do, take regulatory action.

Members

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to prevent hon. Members from also being *(a)* members of a devolved legislature and *(b)* local councillors. [203661]

Mr. Straw: The Government have no current plans to amend the eligibility criteria for membership of the House of Commons as set out in the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will reply to the letter, dated 28 March 2008, transferred from the Cabinet Office, on parliamentary elections. [203393]

Bridget Prentice: I replied to the hon. Member on 23 April.

Mortgages: Repossesion Orders

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mortgage possession orders were made in each county court in England in each year since 1997. [203142]

Bridget Prentice: Copies of a table, showing the number of mortgage possession orders (including suspended orders) made in all county courts of England since 1997, have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

These figures do not indicate how many properties have actually been repossessed, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with administrative or constituency boundaries, and therefore a single court's repossession actions could relate to properties in a number of different constituencies or local authority areas.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were *(a)* released from prison and *(b)* removed from the UK in each of the last five years. [202234]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of adult and young adult foreign national discharges from determinate sentences on completion of sentence in each year between 2003 and 2007 from all prison establishments in England and Wales. Information on the numbers released from Scottish and Northern Irish prisons is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Northern Irish Prison Service. Data have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Foreign national discharges from prison (England and Wales)

	Number
2003	6,200
2004	6,500
2005	7,900
2006	7,300
2007	7,400

Data for 2007 have not been published, and as such are provisional.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information relating to the deportation and removal of foreign national prisoners. Copies of her letters to the Committee are available in the library of the House. She advised the Committee during her appearance of 15 January that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners had been removed or deported from the United Kingdom in 2007. Information prior to April 2006 is not available due to data quality issues. Foreign national prisoners removed or deported in 2007 may have been discharged from prison in previous years.

Police Custody

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which police authorities or chief constables have notified his Department that they will not provide it with police cells after a specified date; what the date is in each case; and how many police cells are currently provided to his Department by those authorities. [202668]

Mr. Straw: Police cells are made available through Operation Safeguard under an agreement between ACPO and the National Offender Management Service. Those forces that do not participate in Operation Safeguard provide cells as ad hoc lockouts. No police force has advised my Department that they will not make cells available to hold prisoners.

Prison Service: Emergencies

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what operational emergencies were declared by each prison in each of the last 12 months; and what the date of each was. [202367]

Mr. Straw: An operational emergency is determined and may be declared locally by a prison governor in response to specific operational circumstances arising in an individual establishment or nationally by the director-general or chief operating officer of the National Offender Management Service (formerly DG and DDG of HM Prison Service) in response to wider concerns within the service.

There have been four occurrences when a clear operational emergency has been declared by the DG/COO under these procedures in the last 12 months. Three of these involved bringing into immediate use additional places at individual establishments. One was a national issue, to facilitate immediate staffing of court cells.

A central record of operational emergencies declared locally is not maintained and an exercise to collate these figures would be at disproportionate cost.

Date	*Establishment*	*Reason for operational emergency*
May 2007	National	Population pressures required the immediate staffing of court cells
June 2007	Blakenhurst	Population pressures exacerbated by flooding in the area required the immediate use of additional overcrowding places
April 2008	Bullingdon	Population pressures required the immediate use of additional overcrowding places
	Cardiff	Population pressures required the immediate use of additional overcrowding places

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's definition of operational emergency is in relation to prisons and young offender institutions; and what such operational emergencies have taken place in *(a)* the Prison Service and *(b)* privately-managed prisons in each of the last 36 months. [202510]

Mr. Straw: The specific circumstances constituting an operational emergency within HMPS are not explicitly defined.

An operational emergency is determined and may be declared locally by a prison governor in response to specific operational circumstances arising in an individual establishment or nationally by the director-general or chief operating officer of the National Offender Management Service (formerly DG and DDG of HM Prison Service) in response to wider concerns within the service.

Within the terms of the Joint Industrial Relations Procedural Agreement (in place with the Prison Officers Association) and the Voluntary Agreement in place with the Prison Governors Association) an operational emergency is specifically defined in the following terms:

> "An occasion where staff will be required to act contrary to the terms of an agreement whether national or local, when events make such action necessary having been identified as a clear operational emergency. Management will aim to give as much notice as possible to the POA and such a situation can only be designated by the DG or DDG who will state the reasons for so doing in writing."

There have been 10 recorded occasions when a clear operational emergency has been declared by the DG/DDG under these procedures in the last 36 months. Eight of these involved bringing into immediate use additional accommodation or places at individual establishments. Two were national issues,

one requiring immediate implementation of Prison Service Instruction 17/07—Maximising occupancy in the open estate, and one to facilitate immediate staffing of court cells.

A central record of operational emergencies declared locally is not maintained and an exercise to collate these figures would be at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the prison population was born in *(a)* Britain, *(b)* EU-15 countries, *(c)* EU A8 countries, *(d)* other EEA countries, *(e)* Africa, *(f)* North America, *(g)* Central America, *(h)* South America, *(i)* the Middle East, *(j)* Asia and *(k)* Oceania in each year since 1997. [200419]

Mr. Straw: Data on prisoners' country of birth are not available.

The following table gives figures and proportions for the numbers of prisoners by nationality held in all prisons in England and Wales from *(a)* Britain *(b)* EU 15 countries *(c)* EU A8 countries *(d)* other EEA countries *(e)* Africa *(f)* North America *(g)* and *(h)* Central and South America *(i)* Middle East *(j)* Asia and *(k)* Oceania with other categories in each year since 1997.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total prison population	61,467	65,727	64,529	65,194	66,403	71,218	73,657	74,488	76,190	77,982	79,734
(a) UK National	56,611	60,393	59,074	59,043	58,732	62,553	63,614	64,379	66,670	66,160	67,760
(b) EU 15 Countries (not UK)	1,274	1,425	1,515	1,490	1,535	1,462	1,552	1,659	1,619	1,683	1,526
(c) EU AS countries (post 2004)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	170	334	574	688
(d) Other EEA countries (Excludes Romania and Bulgaria until 2007 and Cyprus and Malta until 2004)	0	3	3	0	2	4	2	75	63	73	253
(e) Africa	920	921	919	878	1,158	1,297	1,629	1,877	2,430	2,960	3,202
(f) North America	111	135	133	124	119	98	120	124	103	126	124
(g) and *(h)* Central America and South America	158	170	199	201	210	210	273	284	302	373	371
(i) Middle East	118	124	135	164	201	210	406	424	563	672	670
*(j)*Asia	868	914	906	776	1,001	856	1,069	1,100	1,311	1,665	1,892
(k) Oceania	46	49	42	63	38	42	43	41	48	43	46
(l) West Indies	811	884	1,008	1,222	1,856	2,758	3,020	2,463	2,040	1,840	1,639
(m) Unrecorded	179	201	68	543	755	946	1,132	1,168	869	944	877
(n) Other Europe (includes EU A8 Countries until 2004 and Romania and Bulgaria until 2007 and Cyprus and Malta until 2004)	369	505	525	671	793	775	879	718	824	861	681
As percentage of all prisoners											
(a) UK National	92	92	92	91	88	88	86	86	86	85	85
(b) EU 15 Countries (not UK)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
(c) EU A8 countries (post 2004)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
(d) Other EEA countries (Excludes Romania and Bulgaria until 2007 and Cyprus and Malta until 2004)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(e) Africa	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	4	4
(f) North America	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(g) and *(h)* Central America and South America	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(i) Middle East	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
*(j)*Asia	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
(k) Oceania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(l) West Indies	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	2	2
(m) Unrecorded	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
(n) Other Europe (includes EU A8 Countries until 2004 and Romania and Bulgaria until 2007 and Cyprus and Malta until 2004)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

For the purposes of this table, and allowing for changes in EU membership over time, countries have been categorised in the following way.

EU 15 countries are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, and Sweden.

EU A8 countries are: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia.

Other EEA countries: (i) In EU: Cyprus, Malta, Romania, Bulgaria, and (ii) not in EU: Norway, Lichtenstein and Iceland.

Cyprus and Malta acceded to the EU (and consequently the EEA) in 2004; Romania and Bulgaria in 2007. The table reflects these timings.

Other Europe: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Gibraltar, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldavia, Montenegro, Russia (or Russian Federation), San Marino, Serbia, (with Montenegro after 2002), Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Yugoslavia.

Figures for the West Indies and "Other Europe" are included in the answer for completeness.

All the figures in the aforementioned table can be found in Population in Custody 2007, Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2003-06 and Prison Statistics England and Wales 1997-2002, at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm

Copies of these publications can be found in the House of Commons Library.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released before the end of their sentence returned to an address in Wales in each of the last 12 months. [202370]

Mr. Hanson: Under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, those sentenced to determinate sentences of four years or more are eligible for parole halfway through their sentence. If parole is not granted then release occurs at the two-thirds point of the sentence (or at a subsequent parole review if earlier).

The 'Home Detention Curfew' scheme (HDC) has been in operation since January 1999. Subject to meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a careful risk assessment, prisoners serving sentences of between three months and less than four years may be released up to four and a half months (135 days) early from prison subject to an electronically monitored curfew normally between 7 pm and 7 am.

The 'End of Custody Licence' (ECL) was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and less than four years may be released under licence from prison up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

The information requested could be produced only at disproportionate cost. The available information relates to the number of releases of prisoners on HDC, ECL and Parole from each of the four prisons in Wales: Cardiff, Parc, Swansea and Usk/Prescoed.

Figures showing the numbers of prisoners released on (i) Home Detention Curfew (2007) and (ii) End of Custody Licence (between 29 June and 31 December 2007) and (iii) releases on parole (2007) from prison establishments in Wales are in the following table:

	All	Cardiff	Parc	Swansea	Usk/ Prescoed
HDC releases from Welsh prison establishments, 2007	368	70	147	60	91
ECL releases from Welsh prison establishments, 29 June—31 December 2007	826	188	436	144	58
Parole releases from Welsh prison establishments, 2007	52	4	11	2	35

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Voting Methods

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what pilots of weekend voting have taken place to date; in which local authority areas; and on which dates. [203141]

Mr. Wills: Two local authorities have piloted weekend voting at local elections on both the Saturday and Sunday, in addition to voting on the traditional polling day. They were Manchester in 2000 and the London Borough of Camden in 2002.

15 local authorities have also piloted voting at the weekend at local elections which included voting either on a Saturday or Sunday or both, as well as other advance voting days, in addition to voting on the traditional polling day. These were:

	Name of Authority
May 2000	Blackburn, Coventry, Kingston-upon-Hull, Knowsley, Norwich, Plymouth, Redditch, St Helens, Sunderland and Watford.

	Name of Authority
May 2006	Broxbourne and Tyne and Wear (Gateshead, Newcastle, South Tyneside and Sunderland)
May 2007	Bedford, Broxbourne and Gateshead

Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries were sustained by juvenile and young adult offenders held in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* secure children's homes during restrictive physical interventions in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [197308]

Mr. Hanson: Young adults are not placed in secure children's homes. The Youth Justice Board has been collecting restraint data against common definitions across the secure estate since April 2007. The following table shows the requested information for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 January 2008 in relation to under-18 young offender institutions and secure children's homes. It comprises all cases where any treatment (however minor) was required. Information on injuries to young adults in senior young offender institutions is not collected centrally.

Establishment type	Number of injuries
Young offender institutions	67
Secure children's homes	21

Source:
Data supplied by the Youth Justice Board from administrative computer systems

Young Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the prevention of violence against children in the penal system. [203069]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have received a number of representations from Members of Parliament and members of the public relating to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's 'Children in Custody Deserve Care Not Cruelty' campaign.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Finance

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which charities receive funding from the public purse to increase the numbers of young volunteers. [202705]

Phil Hope: The youth volunteering charity v is funded by the Office of the Third Sector to commission third sector organisations to create volunteering opportunities for young people. Details of the projects funded by v can be found on their website at

www.wearev.com.

Copies of the list of funded projects have also been placed in the Library for the reference of members.

The Office of the Third Sector, through its strategic partners programme, is also providing funding in this financial year to the following organisations that provide or promote youth volunteering opportunities: British Youth Council, Citizenship Foundation, National Youth Agency, Youth Action Network and Youthnet UK.

Official Residences: Income Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 592W, on departmental official residences, what guidance has been issued on the income tax liability on the benefit in kind of providing a ministerial residence to a person who is not a Minister of the Crown. [202936]

Mr. Watson: Income tax liability is a matter for HM Revenue and Customs.

Peers: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance has been issued by the Cabinet Office on the eligibility of Ministers who are peers and who reside in an official ministerial residence in London to claim *(a)* Ministers' Night Subsistence Allowance and *(b)* London Supplement. [199278]

Mr. Watson: The allowances payable to Members of the House of Lords are set out in the "Members Reimbursement Allowance Scheme, General Guide, Sixth Edition (January 2007)". The determination of such allowances is a matter for the House of Lords.

V

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the charity v does not replicate the work of other charities when carrying out work at the expense of the public purse. [202704]

Phil Hope: The vast majority of central Government funding for young people's volunteering has been routed through v providing a more joined-up strategic approach to central Government funding for youth volunteering.

v aims to inspire a new generation of volunteers by working in partnership with other third sector organisations, building on the best of their existing activity to create new volunteering opportunities.

V: Educational Institutions

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which charities work in partnership with v in schools and colleges on activities funded by the public purse. [202706]

Phil Hope: v will be working in partnership with local education establishments to engage 16 to 25-year-olds in volunteering through its network of vinvolved teams. v is directly funding some schools, colleges and universities to create and deliver vinvolved projects. The full list of recipients is available at

www.wearev.com.

Nationally, v is working strategically with other third sector partners to increase opportunities for volunteering within the education system.

V: Finance

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding from the public purse is being provided for the charity v in 2008-09; and how much was provided in 2007-08. [202707]

Phil Hope: In 2008-09, £39 million will be provided by the Office of the Third Sector. In addition, v is able to draw down on Government match funding on a pound for pound basis, when they secure funding from the private sector, as set out in Budget 2005.

For the funding provided in 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 743W.

V: Standards

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what objectives have been set for v involved teams which are working at the expense of the public purse; and what protocols govern such teams' working methods. [202708]

Phil Hope: The three priorities for the vinvolved teams are:

1. Creating new volunteering opportunities across all sectors;
2. Brokering young people into opportunities;
3. Championing youth-led action.

v will be monitoring the progress of its funded organisations and supporting them to achieve their targets. In addition, v has asked all of the vinvolved teams and projects to take part in the REACH quality assurance framework, developed by the Youth Action Network.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what representations the Department for Culture, Media and Sport received in connection with the Olympic Legacy Masterplan in each of the last three years. [203344]

Tessa Jowell: The Legacy Masterplan Framework, which will set out a spatial vision for the Olympic Park and its surrounding areas after the Games, is being produced by the London Development Agency (as interim legacy client), working with Government, the Olympic Delivery Authority, host boroughs, local communities and other agencies. The process for developing this vision was launched in February 2008, and is being accompanied by a detailed programme of community engagement activities, to ensure that all members of local communities and other interested parties have an opportunity to get involved in developing and commenting on options for the Olympic Park site in legacy.

This community engagement will build on the work undertaken during the two rounds of consultation in 2006 and 2007 on the Olympic, Paralympic and Legacy Transformation planning applications, which related to proposals for the development of Olympic and Paralympic facilities and their post-Games transformation prior to the legacy phase. This earlier consultation process elicited 278 responses during Round 1, and 478 responses in Round 2, following the submission of further information from the applicant. These representations were submitted to and considered by the Olympic Delivery Authority Planning Authority as part of the planning process.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what criteria have been set for projects and developments in the Olympic Park post 2012; and if she will make a statement. [203345]

Tessa Jowell: Our vision is for the Olympic Park to become the centre of a world class, sustainable and prosperous neighbourhood after the Games, with new homes, sporting and leisure facilities, high quality local services and greatly improved transport links, and 110 hectares of new parkland. We are committed to ensuring that the regeneration of the area meets the needs of local communities, is safe and sustainable and is closely tied in with the development plans for the wider Lower Lea Valley and Thames Gateway areas. This work is being developed through the Legacy Masterplan Framework process, led by the London Development Agency, working with Government, the ODA, host boroughs and local communities.

Olympic Games 2012: National Lottery

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) how much has been raised to date from all dedicated London 2012 Olympic Lottery games; [203645]

(2) how much was raised in 2007-08 from all dedicated London 2012 Olympic Lottery games; [203646]

(3) how much was raised in each quarter of 2007-08 from all dedicated London 2012 Olympic Lottery games. [203649]

Tessa Jowell: By 31 March 2008, £275 million had been raised for the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund from the dedicated Olympic Lottery games. The following table gives the figures for each financial year. The figures include proceeds from Olympic Lottery games, unclaimed prizes and other operator-related income, net of operational costs. They exclude investment earnings on the balance held in the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund.

	£ million
2005-06	16.315
2006-07	112.516
2007-08[1]	146.206

[1] Provisional figure, subject to audit.

The quarterly breakdown in 2007-08 is shown in the following table:

2007-08	*£ million*
Q1	29.475
Q2	37.962
Q3	39.165
Q4	40.504

Notes:

1. All the figures in the table are subject to audit. Numbers are based on the quarter that DCMS brought figures to account, and each quarter's data may not include income for an equal number of weeks for lottery sales across all games.
2. Both tables include provisional proceeds figures for the final quarter of 2007-08 which have not yet been validated by the National Lottery Commission.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) how much has been raised to date from the Dream Number Lottery game to support the London 2012 Olympic Games; [203647]

(2) how much was raised in 2007-08 from the Dream Number Lottery game to support the London 2012 Olympic Games; [203648]

(3) how much was raised in each quarter of 2007-08 from the Dream Number Lottery game to support the London 2012 Olympic Games. [203650]

Tessa Jowell: I am advised by the National Lottery Commission that the sale proceeds going to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) are not available on a game by game basis. Returns to the good causes from the sale of all national lottery games are calculated in accordance with a formula set out in the national lottery operator's licence. In line with that formula, proceeds to the OLDF are based on the proportion of the total national lottery sales attributable to designated Olympic lottery games.

Olympic Games 2012: Schools

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether local schools have been consulted as part of the preparation of the Olympic Legacy Action Plan; and if she will make a statement. [202683]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) is developing the Olympic Legacy Action Plan (LAP) in consultation with stakeholders including the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the five host boroughs.

The DCSF is the Department leading on the education legacy of the games as part of the preparation of the Legacy Action Plan. Working closely with LOCOG who are leading on the development and delivery of the London 2012 Education Programme, the following organisations have been consulted between them on how best to use the 2012 games to drive change within schools, colleges and other education providers.

DCSF's 2012 advisory group, (which includes organisations representing schools and head teachers);

the implementation review unit (IRU) (a group of school practitioners with a remit to challenge and support the DCSF);

Government regional offices;

national agencies such as the Independent Schools Association, the Girls School Association, etc.;

local authorities;

head teachers, teachers, other members of staff and young people from over 100 schools and colleges across the UK;

the Youth Sport Trust 2012 Headteacher Advisory Group;

the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust Advisory Group; and

the Podium Opportunities groups for colleges and universities.

LOCOG also delivered a series of workshops across the UK to encourage schools and young people to explore the opportunities provided by the London 2012 Education Programme. Representatives from Waltham Forest attended a number of these meetings.

LOCOG also works closely with colleagues in each of the five host boroughs to develop their education offer. Young people from Waltham Forest ('Waltham Forest Young Ambassadors') have also attended a consultation workshop at LOCOG to discuss plans for the London 2012 Education Programme.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to tackle opium poppy cultivation in the provinces of Afghanistan where it is taking place; and what assessment he has made of the impact of drug-trafficking on the stability of the region. [201665]

Dr. Howells: The UK is supporting the Afghan Government in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS). This includes work at a national level, through the Ministry of Counter Narcotics, and provincially, through the Independent Directorate for local governance and through provincial governors. Our efforts are focused on those areas where opium poppy cultivation is concentrated, notably in Helmand province. In support of the NDCS, UK assistance aims to: raise public awareness; promote international and regional co-operation; promote alternative livelihoods; reduce demand for drugs; support law enforcement; establish an effective criminal justice system; support targeted eradication of opium cultivation; and build effective Afghan Government institutions.

We remain concerned about the potential for Afghan drug-trafficking to undermine regional stability and are encouraging Afghanistan and its neighbours to take forward further regional counter narcotics coordination and cooperation. The UK will be participating as an observer in the Good Neighbourly Relations Declaration meeting scheduled to take place later this year, which is integral to this process.

Cuba: Sanctions

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the Government supports EU sanctions against Cuba; and what representations he has received on the Government's position on EU sanctions against Cuba in the last 12 months. [199523]

Dr. Howells: The UK's policy on Cuba has been based on the EU Common Position since 1996. The Common Position is a policy framework which aims to encourage transition to pluralist democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Common Position is reviewed each year in June and member states take into account any changes over the past 12 months.

Over the last year, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received representations from the Cuban Government. As Cuba is of interest to many groups in society, my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary regularly receive letters, emails and petitions from many groups including; trade unions, members of the public and non-governmental organisations. Parliamentarians have asked questions on the subject throughout the year.

Food: Prices

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on rising food prices internationally, with particular reference to staples such as rice; and if he will make a statement. [202581]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is acutely aware of the impact of rising food prices globally. He understands this is a critical issue for both the global economy and the UK economy. To date my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not directly received international representations on the issue. However, global economic issues, and their interface with foreign policy, remain a key theme in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) dialogue with partner governments and international institutions globally. Given the potential links between rising food prices and a number of foreign policy issues such as social stability, poverty reduction and conflict, the FCO will continue to monitor the situation closely. We are clear that an international solution is required and to that end my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has written to the chair of the G8 group of industrialised nations and the heads of relevant international organisations calling for co-ordinated action. The letter is available at: http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page15234.asp. FCO posts will keep discussing the situation regularly with key countries and international organisations.

Iran: Arms Trade

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent reports on British arms dealers trading with the government of Iran. [202489]

Dr. Howells: The export of arms and other related material to Iran is subject to UN, EU and national sanctions. We rigorously apply these controls to all export licence applications destined for Iran.

We are aware of recent media reports about British arms dealers attempting to trade with the Government of Iran. We take these reports very seriously. Where the Government receive information that an exporter has attempted to circumvent export control rules, the relevant Government Departments and agencies will take appropriate action. This was the case with the arms brokers John Knight and Mehrdad Salashoor. In both cases, the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) mounted successful prosecutions, which led to both individuals being given extended prison terms and large confiscation orders for breaches of export control rules.

These media reports also highlighted a number of on-going investigations. The relevant authorities are looking into these cases and if they uncover evidence of attempts to breach export control rules, they will refer appropriate cases to RCPO to consider prosecutions. This work, and the recent successful prosecutions, demonstrates that our export controls are robust. We will continue to take action against those who attempt to circumvent UK controls.

Iran: Politics and Government

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [202774]

Dr. Howells: Since I last made a statement to the House on the political situation in Iran on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 220-21W, the parliamentary elections have taken place. As feared, a large proportion of reformist candidates were prevented from standing. Altogether, a third of all prospective candidates who registered to stand were disqualified by Iran's Interior Ministry and Guardian Council, denying the Iranian people a genuine democratic choice about their country's future.

Following the elections, the EU expressed

"deep concern that election procedures in the Islamic Republic of Iran have fallen below international standards and that the electoral process did not allow for truly competitive elections".

The new Parliament will start sitting on 27 May.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements exist for any UK-based law enforcement agency to investigate allegations of misconduct by *(a)* British nationals and *(b)* nationals of other countries, other than Iraqis, who are employees of private military or security companies contracted to work in Iraq by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [203692]

Dr. Howells: If any personnel employed by organisations contracted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) were suspected of committing a crime in Iraq but appeared to be immune from Iraqi legal process, the FCO would refer them to the disciplinary authority of their employing organisation with a view to having them removed from our contract in Iraq and would also bring the matter to the attention of the UK police and/or the authorities of the individual's nationality. The decision whether to pursue a criminal investigation and ultimately whether a prosecution should be undertaken in an individual case would be a matter for the police and prosecuting authorities, acting independently from the Government.

In the case of suspected non-criminal misconduct, we would take up the matter with the employing organisation, and either investigate the matter or have the employing organisation do so and report back to us, depending on the circumstances and the nature of the allegations.

Pakistan: Asylum

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* HM Ambassador in Kabul and *(b)* the High Commissioner in Islamabad on UK immigration applications from Pakistanis claiming status as refugees fleeing Afghanistan. [201630]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had discussions with our ambassador in Kabul or our high commissioner in Islamabad on UK immigration applications from Pakistan claiming status as refugees fleeing Afghanistan.

We take issues of immigration from Pakistan, and the refugee situation within Pakistan, seriously. Senior officials recently visited Pakistan to discuss the UK's engagement with Pakistan on migration and we continue to support the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' Tripartite process to tackle the long-term problem of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the government of Pakistan on the repatriation of Afghan refugees in that country. [202577]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had discussions with the Government of Pakistan on the repatriation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. However we take the issue of the approximately 2 million Afghan refugees, many of whom have been in Pakistan for over 20 years, seriously. Last year the Department for International Development supported the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) repatriation programme with £500,000. We continue to work with the UNHCR Tripartite process to find a sustainable solution to this long-standing problem.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made in the case of Qamar David on trial in Karachi, Pakistan. [201919]

Dr. Howells: We have not made specific representations in the case of Qamar David. But we strongly support freedom of religion, and condemn instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief, wherever this occurs and whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned. Both bilaterally and together with our EU partners, we have raised our concerns over the situation of religious minorities in Pakistan, and the excessive punishments prescribed in cases of blasphemy, and the frequent abuse of the blasphemy legislation. The UN Human Rights Council is undertaking a universal periodic review on the human rights records of a number of countries including Pakistan in May. The UK is participating in this dialogue and will raise the treatment of minorities during the process.

We will continue to raise the concerns of minorities with the new government and encourage reform or repeal of discriminatory legislation through the newly formed National Assembly.

Pakistan: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Pakistan on the situation of the human rights lawyer Parvez Aslam Choudhry in Lahore. [201917]

Dr. Howells: We have not made specific representations on behalf of Mr. Parvez Choudhry but officials in our high commission in Islamabad and in London are aware of him through contact with Christian Solidarity Worldwide and Legal Aid for Destitute and Settlement about his situation.

The UK supports freedom of religion and condemns instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief. Through our regular contact with organisations working on behalf of religious minorities we continue to monitor and raise concerns about the treatment of minorities with the Government and encourage reform or repeal of discriminatory legislation through the National Assembly.

The UN Human Rights Council is undertaking a universal periodic review on the human rights records of a number of countries including Pakistan in May. The UK is participating in this dialogue and will raise the treatment of minorities during the process.

Pakistan: Nuclear Power

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Pakistan on A. Q. Khan. [201916]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the subject of A.Q. Khan with the new Pakistani Government during his recent visit on 20-21 April.

Piracy

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ministry of Defence on tackling piracy on the high seas, with particular reference to the potential for asylum being claimed by arrested pirates; what guidance his Department has issued as a result of those discussions; and if he will make a statement. [203579]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) contribute to wider Government work on piracy issues and incidents that specifically affect UK citizens or assets. The FCO does not lead within Government on asylum issues and as such the Department has issued no guidance to the MoD on this matter.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in the week beginning 5 May to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea; and whether he has received reports on whether Mr. Mann is still being continuously shackled. [202156]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Our consul from the British deputy high commission in Lagos was refused consular access to Simon Mann

during his last visit to Equatorial Guinea in March. We have expressed our concern to the Equatorial Guinea authorities and are urgently seeking another consular visit. His welfare remains our primary concern.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to support the execution of the warrants from the International Criminal Court in relation to Darfur in respect of Ali Koshyb and Ahmed Harun. [202310]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The UK sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005) referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The UK fully supports the ICC and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Sudan's compliance with the ICC with the ICC President Kirsch on 8 November 2007.

We remain gravely concerned that the two individuals, for whom the court has issued arrest warrants, remain at large. The UK continues to press the Government of Sudan, at all levels, to comply with ICC requirements. We have raised Sudanese compliance with the ICC with partners who have influence over the Government of Sudan and will continue to reinforce these concerns.

Taliban

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to his recent comments in Pakistan, whether his officials are currently conducting talks with members of the Taliban or their associates in Afghanistan and Pakistan. [202645]

Dr. Howells: The Government support the approach of the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan in tackling Taliban and insurgent influence through a comprehensive method of addressing security, governance and development needs. We fully support President Karzai's efforts to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream, providing they renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's constitution. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his recent visit to Pakistan, we support the Government of Pakistan's plans to reconcile with people who are willing to participate in normal politics in a non-violent way. Such reconciliation should be designed to marginalise those who are using extremist means for ideological reasons.

USA: Lebanon

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United States government on the deployment of US Navy warships along the coast of Lebanon. [202374]

Dr. Howells: Our officials discuss UK and US policy in Lebanon with their American counterparts on a regular basis, including the deployment of US naval vessels off the coast of Lebanon.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what work has been conducted by the Government Equalities Office on the Single Equalities Bill, excluding work conducted by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Women's National Commission, and the former Equalities Commissions. [201425]

Barbara Follett: Officials have been developing policy in light of the consultation on the Equality Bill's proposals and the Government plans to issue a formal response to the consultation in due course.

Equal Opportunities: EU Law

Lady Hermon: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the timetable is for the implementation of the EU Gender Directive; and if she will make a statement. [201035]

Barbara Follett: The EU Gender Directive was implemented on 6 April 2008 by the Sex Discrimination (Amendment of Legislation) Regulations 2008. These regulations amended both the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government have taken to implement the EU Gender Directive. [201036]

Barbara Follett: The EU Gender Directive was implemented on 6 April 2008 by the Sex Discrimination (Amendment of Legislation) Regulations 2008. These regulations amended both the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bird and Bird

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts were awarded by his Department to Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 2005; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was. [201639]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has not awarded contracts to Bird and Bird solicitors since 2005.

Children: Day Care

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pre-school age and *(b)* school-aged children in lower-income working families in England using formal child care in each year since 2004 as measured against the 2003-04 and 2004-05 averaged baseline; and what progress has been made towards meeting his Department's public service agreement target. [200819]

Mr. Timms: The data requested are not available.

Information relating to what progress has been made towards meeting this public service agreement target is available in the departmental Autumn Performance Report 2007. This is available in the Library and can also be viewed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/autumnreport/full-report07.pdf

Figures showing progress towards public service agreement 3b will be available when the results of the 2007 Childcare Survey are published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families later this year.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date his Department published the Households Below Average Income annual statistics in each of the last six years; and on what date he plans to publish the statistics for 2006-07. [1] [199528]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The publication dates of the last six sets of households below average income statistics are given in the following table.

This year's statistics will be published in June. Publication has been delayed by additional validation and quality assurance checks of the data set. The date of publication has been announced on the National Statistics website, in line with the National Statistics Code of Practice.

Households below average income publication	*Publication date*
1994-95 to 2000-01	11 April 2002
1994-95 to 2001-02	13 March 2003
1994-95 to 2002-03	30 March 2004
1994-95 to 2003-04	30 March 2005
1994-95 to 2004-05	9 March 2006
1994-95 to 2005-06	27 March 2007
1994-95 to 2005-06 (revised edition)	22 May 2007

Employment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the employment rate of *(a)* lone parents, *(b)* ethnic minorities, *(c)* people aged over 50, *(d)* the 15 per cent. of the population with the lowest qualifications and *(e)* those living in wards with a benefit claim rate of 25 per cent. or above and wards in the 10 local authority districts with the lowest employment rates which have benefit claim rates between 20 and 25 per cent. was in each year since 2004 as measured against the baseline figures used to assess progress towards public service agreement target 4; and what progress has been made towards meeting this target. [200821]

Mr. Timms: Available information on the employment rate of lone parents, ethnic minorities, older workers, people with the lowest qualifications and people living in deprived areas in each year since 2004 as measured against the baseline figures used to assess progress towards public service agreement target 4 is shown in the following table.

The baseline for the targets set in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2004 was Quarter 2 2005. The Quarter 2 2004 data were measured against a different baseline.

Percentage

	Quarter 2 2004	*Quarter 2 2005*	*Quarter 2 2006*	*Quarter 2 2007*
Lone Parents	54.4	56.2	56.4	57.2
Ethnic Minorities	59.2	58.6	60.5	60.1
Older Workers (aged 50-69)	54.2	54.6	55.4	55.5
Lowest Qualified	n/a	49.8	49.0	49.1
Deprived Areas	n/a	59.8	60.1	61.1

Notes:
1. The data are not seasonally adjusted so Q2 quarters are compared (as this is the baseline).
2. Quarter 2 2007 are the latest data available.
3. The data refer to Great Britain.
4. The PSA target covers people aged 50-69..

Information relating to what progress has been made towards meeting this target is available in the departmental Autumn Performance Report 2007. This is available in the Library and can also be viewed at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/autumnreport/full-report07.pdf

Incapacity Benefits: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of *(a)* the Welfare Reform Act 2007 and *(b)* new guidance on the disability living allowance on the granting of benefits to people with myalgic encephalopathy. [201838]

Mr. Timms: The Welfare Reform Act 2007 contains provision for the creation of the new employment and support allowance. This will be supported by the new work capability assessment.

The work capability assessment will be a fair, robust and accurate assessment of limited capability for work which takes account of all conditions, including those that are long term and that fluctuate such as myalgic encephalopathy.

Employment and support allowance will replace incapacity benefits for new claimants from October 2008. No assessment of its impact can be made yet.

Updated medical guidance on myalgic encephalopathy for disability living allowance decision makers was published in July 2007. No assessment has been made of the impact of the guidance on entitlement to disability living allowance for people with myalgic encephalopathy.

Legal Profession

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of the contracts awarded by his Department to *(a)* Christine Lee and Co. solicitors, *(b)* Ward Hadaway solicitors, *(c)* Dean and Dean solicitors and *(d)* Lawford Kidd solicitors were in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [201635]

1. *[Official Report, 15 May 2008, Vol. 475, c. 10MC.]*

Mrs. McGuire: Information prior to 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department for Work and Pensions has not awarded contracts to Christine Lee and Co. solicitors, Dean and Dean solicitors and Lawford Kidd solicitors in the last three years (2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08).

Contracted expenditure with Ward Hadaway solicitors in each of the last three years was £28,520 in 2005-06, £5,979 in 2006-07 and £1,293 in 2007-08.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the incremental cost would be of allowing all those entitled to national insurance pensions to receive the annual increase in those pensions irrespective of place of residence. [202709]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK state pension is uprated for UK pensioners living overseas where there is a reciprocal social security agreement or a legal requirement to do so.

The current estimate to bring all frozen rate UK state pensions up to the current rate is around £440 million and this would be an ongoing cost increasing year on year.

Source:

March 2007 retirement pension and widows benefit administrative data, 5 per cent. sample

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200008]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes on 28 June, 2007.

From that date to the end of the financial year, the following services have been provided by polling companies for the Department. The research has informed the Department's information campaign to ensure potential students are aware of the financial support that is available.

Company name:	*Type of research:*
Continental Research	Two quantitative survey based projects
Define Research and Insight Ltd.	Three qualitative, focus group based research projects
Jigsaw	Two quantitative survey based projects. One to measure student and parent satisfaction with the student finance service and further work to inform the information campaign.
Seventy 2 Point	One qualitative survey based research project.

In addition to this SHM Ltd. organized five small "Student Jury" events (14-15 students per event) with current students to inform the work of the National Student Forum.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the letter of 14 April 2008 to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South from his Department's Parliamentary Section, regarding the question tabled by the hon. Member on 1 April 2008 (198340), for what reason the question tabled by the hon. Member on 28 January 2008 (183633) on midwifery students, was not transferred to the Department of Health. [201944]

Mr. Lammy: The parliamentary team confirmed that they issued a notification of transfer to the hon. Member for PQ 183633 as with PQ 198340. Both of these PQs were transferred to the Department for Health and a response was sent to the hon. Member on 24 April, *Official Report*, columns 2084-86W.

Energy and Utility Skills Sector Skills Council

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Energy and Utility Sector Skills Council is taking to ensure that the UK has an adequate supply of people with the skills needed for the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. [202630]

Mr. Lammy: Energy and Utility Skills (E&U Skills) is one of several Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) which have a particular interest in the supply of skills needed for energy efficiency and renewable energy. E&U Skills is taking a number of steps which will help ensure that the skills needed in these areas are met.

In common with all SSCs, E&U Skills has developed a Sector Skills Agreement (SSA) which identifies the sector's current and future skills needs. The SSA, which is UK wide, provides a clear platform for education and skills agencies and providers to work with the sector on helping meet those needs. Following on from the SSA, E&U Skills, working with leading employers, are considering the case for a possible national skills academy for environmental industries, with initial discussions focussing on waste management and water. E&U Skills has also brokered the setting up of an employer-led Power Sector Skills Strategy Group, chaired by a senior manager from EOF Energy. Through these initiatives, EU Skills is engaging and consulting with its sector on developing arrangements that will lead to the renewable energy agenda being addressed throughout these industries.

On energy usage, E&U Skills is taking steps such as working with the Health and Safety Executive to ensure that the re-licensing of the gas registrar (currently CORGI) takes account of all the skills needs of gas installers. It is anticipated that the new registrar will be announced in the next few months.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he plans to make intervention funding available to the Learning and Skills Council to support *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* proposed mergers of further education colleges between 2008-09 and 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [202977]

Mr. Lammy: As the statutory planning and funding body for further education, it is for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to consider how it uses the funds it receives in line with stated priorities. The Department does not propose to make an additional budget available specifically for intervention at this point. Where it has been identified that a college may be underperforming, LSC will normally issue a notice to improve and support is provided to address the areas of weakness. This may be an improvement advisor appointed by the new FE improvement body or another support package drawn from other improvement services, depending on the circumstances. Strategic options, which may include formal collaboration with another institution, may also be explored. Intervention powers will apply only in the most serious cases of underperformance where a college has not made the required progress against the notice to improve, and the LSC and the governing body cannot agree a way forward.

While there is no specific fund to support merger proposals, the LSC may decide to support the development of proposals in a number of ways e.g. support for feasibility studies.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2008, Official *Report,* columns 998-9W, on Ipsos MORI, what proportion of his Department's consultancy expenditure to date has involved payments to Ipsos MORI. [203110]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Department is in the process of producing the 2007-08 Resource Accounts. The accounts report both the 2007-08 outturn and 2006-07 comparatives. Until the accounts are completed we are unable to provide the proportion that Ipsos MORI expenditure accounted for as the total of consultancy expenditure for the Department, to do so would be at disproportionate cost.

Land Use

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether the Foresight Land Use Futures project will review *(a)* Green Belt protection, *(b)* other land use designations and *(c)* rural re-rating. [203134]

Ian Pearson: The Foresight Land Use Futures project will take a long-term (25 to 50 years), system-wide view, to explore how our use of land may need to evolve to meet future challenges and how it can deliver economic, social and environmental benefits sustainably.

By combining the most up to date scientific evidence with well-informed exploratory futures work it will assist policymakers in developing robust and resilient strategies, policies and priorities.

The project was announced by Professor John Beddington earlier this month and its detailed scope will be confirmed in June. It is a futures project and, as such, will not scrutinise specific existing policies or immediate policy questions. It will focus on developing an understanding of land use systems, the factors that may drive future changes and the opportunities and risks associated with those futures.

Further information as and when it becomes available will be posted at

http://www.foresight.gov.uk/LandUse/LandUse.html

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* processes and *(b)* criteria will be used to select the (i) high level stakeholder group and (ii) expert advisory group for the Foresight Land Use Futures project. [203135]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is as follows:

(i) Foresight Land Use Futures high level stakeholder group

The Foresight Land Use Futures project covers a wide range of issues. The process for selecting members for the high level stakeholder group has included consideration of the issues and range of interests potentially involved, consultation with the sponsoring Departments, DEFRA and CLG, consultation with expert and professional communities and UK Research Councils. The criteria were designed to ensure a balance of interests such as rural and urban, environmental and commercial, public and private sector. Details of membership will be posted on the website in due course.

There are a large number of other organisations who will contribute to and be communicated with on a regular basis as a wider stakeholder community for the project

(ii) Foresight Land Use Futures lead expert group

Foresight projects draw upon a large network of leading experts in the UK and internationally, from a wide range of scientific and other disciplines, in order to ensure that the work is of the highest technical and scientific standard. A small lead expert group, will work closely with the Foresight team throughout the life of the project to steer the technical work and contribute to the analysis. Members of the lead expert group demonstrate high academic standing in the relevant discipline areas and have capacity to commit up to four days per month to the project. Experience of bringing academic evidence to bear on public policy is also desirable.

The lead expert group for this project has not yet been constituted. The Government's Chief Scientific Adviser will invite individuals to join this group once the formal project scope has been confirmed by the high level stakeholder group and the key disciplines agreed. Again, the membership of the group will be posted on the website.

Learning and Skills Council for England: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much intervention funding he plans to make available to each regional and sub-regional learning and skills council to support further education college mergers and other exceptional circumstances in each of the years of the current comprehensive spending review period. [203390]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer to his question 202977. As stated in that answer, the Department does not propose to make an additional budget available specifically for intervention at this point and there is no specific fund to support merger proposals.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies use selection by *(a)* aptitude, *(b)* local banding and *(c)* area banding in admissions; and if he will make a statement. [201047]

Jim Knight: Academies must abide by the schools admissions code as it applies to maintained schools, which includes statutory requirements on selection by aptitude and selection using banding.

Over-subscription criteria are included in each academy's funding agreement. Of the 83 open academies, if over-subscribed, 17 academy funding agreements allow for selection of 10 per cent. of pupils by aptitude in a relevant specialism; 26 allow for banding by reference to the ability range of applicants and three allow for banding with reference to the national ability range. There are no funding agreements that allow for banding with reference to the ability range of pupils in the local area.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children aged *(a)* three and *(b)* four years old were in daycare settings for more than 12.5 hours a week in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (ii) Bexley borough in each of the last 10 years. [203565]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number and proportion of children aged three and four years old attending private, voluntary and independent settings for more than 12.5 hours a week was not collected prior to 2004. From 2004, data are available for four-year-old children only.

The available information about the number of three and four-year-olds in free early education, in private, voluntary and independent providers, by number of sessions and local authority area were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000729/index .shtml The number of four-year-olds accessing five or more sessions can be found in table 6. Information for 2004-06 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have not completed a sufficiency assessment of childcare provision; and if he will make a statement. [202139]

Beverley Hughes: I am advised that all local authorities have completed sufficiency assessments of childcare provision in their areas and have published them, as the Childcare Act 2006 requires, on their websites. I understand, however, that three local authorities have not yet published their assessments in final form because they are still awaiting formal clearance from the appropriate council body.

Children: Employment

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Government plans to publish new guidance on child employment. [201865]

Beverley Hughes: We plan to publish new guidance on child employment later this year.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children aged *(a)* under one, *(b)* one year old, *(c)* two years old, *(d)* three years old, *(e)* four years old, *(f)* five years old and *(g)* more than five years old attended children's centres in each year for which figures are available; [202828]

(2) how many children attended each children's centre in each year for which figures are available; [202829]

(3) how many and what proportion of children attending children's centres were in the care of a local authority in each year for which figures are available; [202830]

(4) how many and what proportion of children attending children's centres were from socio-economic groups four to seven in each year for which figures are available; [202831]

(5) how many and what proportion of children attending children's centres were from black, minority or ethnic backgrounds in each year for which figures are available. [202833]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start Children's Centres offer a wide range of services to children and families, including childcare, health and family support services. The Department does not collect data on all children attending children's centres. However the Childcare and Early Years Providers survey does provide some data on children attending full day care provision in children's centres.

The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers survey estimated that there were 40,050 children attending full day care provision in Sure Start Children's Centres in England. At 31 March 2006 there were 836 designated children's centres.

The proportion of children attending, by age is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Percentage of children attending full day care provision in Sure Start Children's Centres, by age—2006

	Percentage
Under 2 years old	21
2 years old	29
3 years old	28

Table 1: Percentage of children attending full day care provision in Sure Start Children's Centres, by age—2006

	Percentage
4 years old	16
5-7 years old	2
8 years old and over	2

Note:
Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent due to rounding.

The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that there were approximately 10,250 children from a black and minority ethnic group attending full day care provision in children's centres, an average of 24 per cent. of children per setting.

The Childcare and Early Years Providers survey does not collect information about children in care or children's socio-economic groups.

Data for previous years are not available; children's centres were included in the survey for the first time in 2006.

Local authorities are responsible for the performance management of children's centres. To support them in this, and to encourage a systematic approach, we issued "Planning and Performance Management Guidance" in November 2006 including a framework of performance indicators reflecting the every child matters (ECM) outcomes, national public service agreement targets, and key activities for centres for example reaching excluded groups in their area; and a self evaluation form for centres to complete and discuss with their local authority. In line with the proposals in "Strong and Prosperous Communities", the local government White Paper published in October 2006, we are moving to a more streamlined and proportionate performance management regime with a new national indicator set which includes indicators relating to Sure Start Children's Centres.

Children's Centres: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of children's centres in Bexley borough; and if he will make a statement. [203386]

Beverley Hughes: During the period 2003-08, Bexley local authority developed 12 Sure Start children's centres, offering a wide range of services to children and families including child care, health and family support services. Further centres will be developed over the next two years (2008-10), which will ensure that there are sufficient centres to meet the needs of all pre-school children in their area.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which his Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203600]

Jim Knight: The Cabinet Office publication "Public bodies 2007" lists the number of people serving on the boards of public bodies as at 31 March 2007, the latest date for which figures are available. These figures are broken down by individual Departments. "Public bodies 2007" can be downloaded from www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp Copies are also available in the Library of the House. The Department was created in June 2007; the figures in "Public Bodies 2007" relate to the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The names of the NDPBs for which my Department is now responsible are listed on my Department's website at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/ndpb/ The DfES's "Public Bodies 2007" is also on this website page.

Nurseries: Standards

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent nurseries were rated by Ofsted as (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) poor in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [202182]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Nursery Schools

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nursery schools *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each of the last 10 years. [201853]

Beverley Hughes: The number of maintained nursery schools notified to the Department as opening and closing in each of the last 10 years are provided in the following tables.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Grand total
Opened												
Total	2	1	2	3	2	1	0	3	1	0	0	15
Closed												
Total	12	8	15	17	15	11	10	12	5	3	1	109

Source:
EduBase

Schools can be opened and closed for a number of reasons including: to meet demographic changes (population decline); as part of an amalgamation; to allow a Fresh Start school to replace a school in special measures; to allow a school with a religious character to replace a school without a religious character; or as part of another type of local reorganisation.

The number of child care places available in England since 1997 is shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Number[1,2] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type England 1997 to 2002, position at 31 March each year

Type of provider	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Day nurseries	193,800	223,000	247,700	264,200	285,100	n/a
Playgroups and pre-schools	383,700	383,600	347,200	353,100	330,200	n/a
Childminders	365,200	370,700	336,600	320,400	304,600	n/a
Out of school clubs	78,700	92,300	113,800	141,100	152,800	n/a
Holiday schemes[3]	209,000	256,500	435,200	490,400	550,400	

n/a = not available
[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.
[3] From 1999, places were counted once for each school holiday. Before 1999, places were counted once each year.

Table 2: Number[1] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care, England 2003-07, position at 31 March each year

Type of care	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Full day care	381,600	456,300	518,000	565,700	598,700
Sessional day care	280,800	274,100	249,600	237,100	221,600
Childminders	300,900	319,700	316,100	322,200	317,700
Out of school day care	285,400	326,700	341,200	366,500	365,400
Crèche day care	32,700	38,900	43,400	46,300	47,700

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
Source:
Ofsted

Local authorities were responsible for the registration and inspection of children's day care facilities until these responsibilities were transferred to Ofsted in September 2001. With the introduction of the National Day Care Standards and the transfer of responsibilities for registration and inspection of child care providers from local authority social service departments to Ofsted in September 2001, child care places were classified according to the type of provider.

Olympic Games 2012: Education

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Minister for the Olympics on the educational legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games. [203346]

Jim Knight: I have had one meeting with the Minister for the Olympics to discuss the education legacy of the 2012 games.

Officials from my Department are currently in discussion with the Government Olympic Executive and the London Organising Committee of the Games on the development of a detailed Education Delivery Plan to support the successful delivery of PSA 22 and the Legacy Action Plan indicators for which the Minister for the Olympics is responsible.

TREASURY

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements exist for the Valuation Office Agency to make the council tax list for England and Wales available to third parties for value-added use; and if he will make a statement. [200842]

Jane Kennedy: Council tax valuation lists for England and Wales are available to search on the Valuation Office Agency's website at no cost. Full copies of lists are not otherwise available without a statutory gateway.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many dwellings in each local authority area in Wales have moved up one or more bands as a result of council tax band amendments subsequent to the 2005 council tax revaluation. [203116]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plot size attribute information the Valuation Office Agency's TENET mapping software provides for council tax valuations and revaluations. [203128]

Jane Kennedy: TENET mapping software can calculate plot size for domestic properties where that is relevant to the market value of a dwelling.

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181895]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196591]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury awarded the following consultancy contracts in 2007:

Purpose	Supplier	Estimated contract value (£)
Managerial Training	Management Tests and Surveys Ltd.	13,000
General Consultancy	James Hines (University of Michigan)	5,000
Business Analysis and Space Planning consultancy	EC Harris	11,000
Cost Benefit Analysis of Generic Financial Advice	PACEC	24,000
Project Support (3 contracts)	Jackie Wells (2 contracts)	94,000
	Nick Lord	
Mutuals Legislation	Nigel Fawcett	24,000
Supplier Management	Future Purchasing	88,000
Financial Exclusion Workshops	IPSOS Mori	31,000
IS Consultancy Framework	Deloitte MCS Ltd.	£1 million to 3 million
	Hitachi	
	PA Consulting Services Ltd.	
	Qedis	
Analysis of Generic Financial Advice	Deloitte	150,000
Investigation into the loss of confidential data	Pricewaterhouse Coopers	[1]
Support and Advice on Northern Rock	Slaughter & May	[2]
	Goldman Sachs	[2]
	CRA International	[2]
	Deloittes	[2]

[1] Commercially confidential project not yet completed.
[2] Commercially confidential.

Details of consultancy contracts awarded in 2005 and 2006 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Treasury's spending on consultancy since 2001-02 is set out in Table 7.4 on page 91 of the 2006-07 Annual Report and Accounts, available from:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/annual_report07.cfm>

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2579W, on departmental ICT, how many of the missing or stolen *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by his Department; and at what cost. [202438]

Angela Eagle: It would be normal practice to replace these items, but there is no record kept which would distinguish an order for a replacement item from a new requirement. The estimated cost of replacement for all these items was given in the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2580W on departmental property.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to ensure that counterfeit routers and other counterfeit hardware are not utilised in his Department's computer networks. [203243]

Angela Eagle: Equipment installed on HM Treasury IT networks is subject to operational and security testing before it is introduced into live service. In addition HM Treasury procures computer hardware from reputable companies under framework agreements established and managed by OGC Buying Solutions (part of the Office of Government Commerce,).

Enterprise Investment Scheme

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to review the *(a)* Enterprise Investment Scheme and *(b)* Enterprise Management Incentive to (i) meet the needs of entrepreneurial investment and (ii) retain the engagement of business angels and venture capital funds. [202817]

Jane Kennedy: Government keep all schemes that give tax relief under review. Evaluations of the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and the Enterprise Management Incentives (EMI) scheme have recently been published on the HMRC website.

Budget 2008 announced:

a consultation on how EIS could be made simpler and more accessible;

an increase in the annual investor limit of EIS from £400,000 to £500,000 to further stimulate investment in smaller, higher-risk companies; and

an increase in the individual option grant limit of EMI from £100,000 to £120,000 to help smaller higher-risk companies recruit and retain key employees.

Gift Aid

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on charities of the change in the Gift Aid rate which entered into force on 6 April 2008. [202879]

Jane Kennedy: The precise impact on charities will depend on the behavioural reactions of donors and charities to the recent changes. Gross Gift Aid donations to charities are currently expected to increase year on year and were expected to do so even without the Budget 2008 announcements.

The Budget 2008 announcement of a transitional relief enabling Gift Aid to be paid at a transitional rate for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 donations, will offset the effect on Gift Aid of the fall in the basic rate of income tax over the next three years. The estimated

financial impact of this is published in table A.1 of the HMT 2008 Financial Statement and Budget Report at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/2/5/bud08_chaptera.pdf

Budget 2008 also announced a package of measures aimed at driving up Gift Aid including major reform to the auditing process; a programme for bringing more smaller charities into Gift Aid; redesign of guidance and outreach to 5,000 new charities through the launch of targeted marketing tools.

Government Departments: Land

Mr. Maples: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requirements there are on Government departments to include a development uplift clause when they sell land which might be developed to provide for part of any gain in value from a grant of planning permission to be paid to the Government; whether moneys paid under such provisions are retained by the selling department; and whether there is a standard percentage of uplift in value which is included. [203653]

Angela Eagle: OGC supports departments engaged in the disposal of surplus land and property by providing detailed guidance, which helps departments to identify when and how to include uplift provisions in contracts for sale.

Treasury and OGC require departments to identify future disposals and plan to use the receipts, however, Treasury approval would be required if prior to disposal a department had not obtained Estimates cover for spending receipts.

Neither HM Treasury nor OGC recommend a standard percentage uplift figure.

Income

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of household income came from *(a)* tax credits, *(b)* means-tested benefits, *(c)* other benefits, *(d)* earned income excluding tax credits and *(e)* other sources in each year since 2003-04, broken down by (i) income quintile and (ii) income decile. [196462]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is given in the following tables. In all categories the percentage of household income made up of benefits is decreasing year on year as more people move into work and families can benefit from wages not benefits.

Table 1a: Proportion of household income from various sources by quintile, before housing costs, United Kingdom, 2003-04 to 2005-06

				Percentage of income
Quintile	*Component*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bottom	Tax credits	6	8	10
	Means tested benefits	24	22	19
	Other benefits	26	26	24
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	34	35	39
	Other sources	9	9	8
Second	Tax credits	6	7	7
	Means tested benefits	9	9	9
	Other benefits	21	20	20
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	55	55	55
	Other sources	10	10	9
Middle	Tax credits	3	3	3
	Means tested benefits	3	3	3
	Other benefits	11	12	12
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	73	74	72
	Other sources	10	9	10
Fourth	Tax credits	1	1	1
	Means tested benefits	1	1	1
	Other benefits	6	6	6
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	83	82	83
	Other sources	9	10	10
Top	Tax credits	0	0	0
	Means tested benefits	0	0	0
	Other benefits	2	2	2
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	86	86	85
	Other sources	12	12	13

Source:
Family Resources Survey 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06

Table 1 b: Proportion of household income from various sources by quintile after housing costs, United Kingdom, 2003-04 to 2005-06

				Percentage of income
Quintile	*Component*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bottom	Tax credits	6	8	10
	Means tested benefits	28	24	21
	Other benefits	20	19	17
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	38	40	44
	Other sources	9	8	7
Second	Tax credits	6	6	7
	Means tested benefits	7	7	7
	Other benefits	20	19	19
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	59	59	59
	Other sources	8	9	8
Middle	Tax credits	3	2	3
	Means tested benefits	2	2	2
	Other benefits	12	12	12
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	74	75	74
	Other sources	9	9	9
Fourth	Tax credits	1	1	1

Table 1 b: Proportion of household income from various sources by quintile, after housing costs, United Kingdom, 2003-04 to 2005-06

Percentage of income

Quintile	*Component*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
	Means tested benefits	1	1	1
	Other benefits	7	7	7
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	83	82	82
	Other sources	9	10	9
Top	Tax credits	0	0	0
	Means tested benefits	0	0	0
	Other benefits	2	2	2
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	85	84	83
	Other sources	13	13	14

Source:
Family Resources Survey 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06

Table 1c: Proportion of household income from various sources by decile, before housing costs, United Kingdom, 2003-04 to 2005-06

Percentage of income

Decile	*Component*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bottom	Tax credits	6	8	9
	Means tested benefits	20	20	16
	Other benefits	27	26	24
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	36	36	41
	Other sources	11	10	9
Second	Tax credits	7	9	11
	Means tested benefits	26	23	21
	Other benefits	26	25	24
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	33	34	37
	Other sources	8	9	8
Third	Tax credits	6	8	8
	Means tested benefits	12	12	11
	Other benefits	24	23	23
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	48	48	49
	Other sources	10	9	9
Fourth	Tax credits	5	6	6
	Means tested benefits	6	6	6
	Other benefits	18	18	18
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	60	60	61
	Other sources	11	10	10
Fifth	Tax credits	3	3	4
	Means tested benefits	4	4	4
	Other benefits	13	13	14
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	70	70	68
	Other sources	10	10	10
Sixth	Tax credits	2	2	2
	Means tested benefits	2	2	2
	Other benefits	10	10	11
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	76	77	75
	Other sources	10	9	9
Seventh	Tax credits	1	1	1
	Means tested benefits	1	1	1
	Other benefits	7	7	7
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	81	80	81
	Other sources	9	10	9
Eighth	Tax credits	1	1	1
	Means tested benefits	0	0	0
	Other benefits	5	5	5
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	85	84	84
	Other sources	9	10	10
Ninth	Tax credits	0	0	0
	Means tested benefits	0	0	0
	Other benefits	3	3	3
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	88	87	87
	Other sources	8	9	9
Top	Tax credits	0	0	0
	Means tested benefits	0	0	0
	Other benefits	1	1	1
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	85	85	84
	Other sources	14	14	15

Source:
Family Resources Survey 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06.

Table 1d: Proportion of household income from various sources by decile, after housing costs, United Kingdom, 2003-04 to 2005-06

Percentage of income

Decile	*Component*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bottom	Tax credits	5	7	8
	Means tested benefits	25	24	19
	Other benefits	18	17	15
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	41	42	48
	Other sources	11	10	9
Second	Tax credits	6	9	11
	Means tested benefits	29	25	23
	Other benefits	22	21	19
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	35	39	41
	Other sources	7	7	6
Third	Tax credits	7	8	8
	Means tested benefits	10	10	11

Table 1d: Proportion of household income from various sources by decile, after housing costs, United Kingdom, 2003-04 to 2005-06

Decile	Component	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
		Percentage of income		
	Other benefits	23	22	22
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	52	53	53
	Other sources	8	8	7
Fourth	Tax credits	5	6	6
	Means tested benefits	4	4	5
	Other benefits	18	18	18
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	65	63	64
	Other sources	8	9	8
Fifth	Tax credits	3	3	3
	Means tested benefits	2	2	3
	Other benefits	14	13	14
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	72	73	71
	Other sources	9	8	9
Sixth	Tax credits	2	2	2
	Means tested benefits	1	2	1
	Other benefits	10	11	11
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	77	77	77
	Other sources	9	9	9
Seventh	Tax credits	1	1	1
	Means tested benefits	1	1	1
	Other benefits	8	8	8
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	81	81	81
	Other sources	9	9	9
Eighth	Tax credits	1	1	1
	Means tested benefits	0	0	0
	Other benefits	6	6	6
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	84	84	84
	Other sources	9	10	9
Ninth	Tax credits	0	0	0
	Means tested benefits	0	0	0
	Other benefits	3	4	4
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	86	86	85
	Other sources	10	10	11
Top	Tax credits	0	0	0
	Means tested benefits	0	0	0
	Other benefits	2	2	2
	Earnings (excluding tax credits)	84	83	82
	Other sources	15	15	16

Notes:
1. The incomes used employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Income has been equivalised using OECD equalisation factors.
3. The information shown is for the United Kingdom.
4. Quintiles are income values which divide the population, when ranked by income, into five equal-sized groups. The lowest quintile describes individuals with incomes in the bottom 20 per cent. of the income distribution. Deciles are income values which divide the population, when ranked by income, into 10 equal-sized groups. The lowest decile describes individuals with incomes in the bottom 10 per cent. of the income distribution.
5. All statistics are rounded to the nearest percentage point. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of this rounding.
6. Earnings exclude tax credits, but include income from self-employment. Remaining income includes incomes from investments, (non-state) pensions and remaining income not classified elsewhere.
7. Small changes in estimates from year to year, particularly at the bottom of the distribution, may not be significant because of data uncertainties such as sampling errors.

Source:
Family Resources Survey, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms he is considering for compensating people who are *(a)* carers and *(b)* retirees between the ages of 50 and 59 years who are paying more tax as a result of the abolition of the 10 per cent. starting rate. [202756]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor wrote to the Chairman of the House of Commons Treasury Committee on 23 April to outline that the Government intends to do more to help low-income households.

The letter made clear that a report into the issue will be published in time for the pre-Budget report and that the Chancellor will report back to the House of Commons in the pre-Budget report.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what compensation is planned for retired people over the age of 65 years who are adversely affected by the abolition of the 10 pence income tax rate. [203394]

Jane Kennedy: Budget 2007 announced increases in age-related income tax allowances for those aged 65 or over by £1,180 above indexation in April 2008, removing around 600,000 pensioners from paying tax. As a result of personal tax and benefit measures announced in Budget 2007, by April 2008 pensioner households will be, on average, £80 per year better off.

The Government have made clear that it intends to do more to help low-income households affected by the removal of the 10p starting rate of income tax, including pensioners aged 60-64. The Chancellor's letter to John McFall of the Treasury Select Committee made clear that a report into the issue will be published in the run-up to the pre-Budget report, and that the Chancellor will report back to the House in the pre-Budget report.

Insurance: VAT

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what value of VAT receipts have been received by his Department from insurance claims from the flooding in summer 2007. [202893]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

The extent to which spending related to the floods and funded by insurance claims might impact on overall VAT receipts is unclear given the need to take into account a broad and complex range of reclaim, offsetting and displacement factors over a reasonable period of time. As such, no assessment has been made.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter dated 19 March 2008, regarding VAT paid by Mercia Inshore Search and Rescue on equipment and services (PO Ref: 1/55630/2008). [203395]

Jane Kennedy: I replied to the hon. Member on 30 April.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer the letter of 10 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton, with regard to Mrs. N. Hussain. [203887]

Jane Kennedy: I replied to the right hon. Member on 24 April.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been raised by the introduction of the premium rate 0845 telephone number at HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [203310]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs do not operate any premium rate telephone services and raise no revenue through the use of 0845 business rate lines.

Tax Yields: Sustainable Development

Alan Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecast he has made of the revenue which will accrue to his Department as a result of the *(a)* Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, *(b)* Renewables Obligation, *(c)* European Union Emissions Trading Scheme and *(d)* Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation in 2008. [201490]

Angela Eagle: No revenue is generated for the Treasury by the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). The purpose of CERT is to help electricity and gas consumers in the household sector to reduce the carbon impact (footprint) of their home by using energy more efficiently, reducing consumption and using energy from renewable sources. Specifically, CERT is an obligation on energy suppliers to achieve an overall target of 154 $MtCO_2$ lifetime reduction in carbon emissions, equivalent to annual net savings of 4.2 $MtCO_2$ by 2010, and will stimulate about £2.8 billion of investment by energy suppliers in promoting carbon reduction measures. Suppliers must direct at least 40 per cent. of carbon savings to a priority group of low-income and elderly consumers, contributing to the alleviation of fuel poverty. Overall around £1.5 billion is expected to be directed at the priority group.

There are no revenues generated from the Renewables Obligation (RO). The RO places an obligation on UK suppliers of electricity to source an increasing proportion of their electricity from renewable sources. Suppliers can comply with their obligation either by presenting ROCs or by paying a buyout amount. Any revenue generated by these buyouts is redistributed to suppliers depending on the number of ROCs they present against their obligation.

In Phase II of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which runs from 2008 to 2012, Government will auction 7 per cent. of allowances. This equates to approximately 85 million allowances, plus those allowances from installations that close during Phase II and any unused surplus from the New Entrant Reserve (NER). The total amount cannot exceed 10 per cent. of the number allocated during Phase II according to the terms of the EU ETS Directive 2003/87/EC. The amount of revenue will be influenced by the market price of carbon at the time of the auctions.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation does not generate revenue. It places a legal obligation on transport fuel suppliers to supply a specified proportion of their road fuel supplies to their customers in the UK from renewable energy sources. Suppliers demonstrate their compliance through a certification system using 'Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates' (RTFCs). Suppliers can choose to 'buy out' of their obligation, with moneys collected through this going into a 'buy out fund'. The fund will be recycled among obligated companies in proportion to actual fulfilment of the Obligation through the redemption of certificates.

Taxation: Land

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent research his Department has conducted into land value taxation. [203049]

Jane Kennedy: The Treasury keeps a range of tax options under consideration in the course of its policy making process.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 898W, on the Valuation Office, on what date the automated valuation model was last calibrated. [203120]

Jane Kennedy: Automated valuation model technology used by the Valuation Office Agency has allowed calibration to be undertaken at many and different times throughout the country with several models having been adopted. Accordingly, there is no single date that can be given.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency's Valuebill interface applies to *(a)* England or *(b)* England and Wales. [203114]

Jane Kennedy: It applies to England and Wales.

Valuation Office: Northern Ireland Land and Property Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings representatives of the Valuation Office Agency have had with Northern Ireland Land and Property Services in the last 12 months. [203118]

Jane Kennedy: Representatives of the Valuation Office Agency have met with representatives of the Northern Ireland Land and Property Services on 8 occasions in the last 12 months. The meetings were to discuss valuation issues and practices common to the public sector.

Valuation Office: Procurement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency's purchase orders are recorded in an electronic database. [203132]

Jane Kennedy: They are.

Valuation Office: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's customer services manual. [203129]

Jane Kennedy: The agency's customer service manual is currently being comprehensively rewritten, and this rewrite is expected to be complete next month, whereupon the updated version will be published on the VOA website.

VAT: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has accrued to the Exchequer from value added tax receipts on *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* energy performance certificates to date. [203126]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

VAT: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue to the Exchequer from value added tax charged on repairs to flood-damaged property in 2007. [203117]

Jane Kennedy: No estimate has been made.

Welfare Tax Credits: Finance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will break down the prepared total managed expenditure 2006 to 2011 as included in Budget 2008 Table C9, for tax credits, by funding allocated for *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit, excluding the allocation for child allowances in income support and jobseeker's allowance. [202702]

Jane Kennedy: The figures in Table C9 are of net payments on a cash basis. The detailed information needed to break these down between child tax credit and working tax credit is not available.

However, Table 3.1 at Note 3 to the HMRC Trust Statement for 2006-07 shows the full breakdown for HMRC expenditure in that year on an accruals basis. Note that these figures exclude the payments of child allowances in income support and jobseeker's allowance, which are included in the tax credits figure shown in table C9, as explained in footnote 1 to that table.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1691W, on welfare tax credits: telephone services, whether the staffing cost for 2006-07 is for both the claimants and the hon. Members' tax credit helpline. [202878]

Jane Kennedy: The staffing costs in my previous answer related only to the claimants tax credit helpline.

The other data are not available in the format requested as the information cannot be disaggregated from other costs. The number of staff on the tax credit office MP hotline fluctuates according to demand and advisers are assigned other tasks during less busy periods.

Working Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of people claimed working tax credit in *(a)* Basingstoke constituency, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England in each year for which records are available; [203101]

(2) how many and what proportion of people claimed working tax credit in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in each year for which records are available. [203382]

Jane Kennedy: Tax Credit take-up rate estimates are not available at constituency or local authority level.

Estimates of Child and Working Tax Credit take-up rates for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, by country and region, are produced in table 9 of the HMRC publications "Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Take-up Statistics", which are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, by constituency, local authority and country, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. Geographical Analysis" for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. These publications and provisional estimates for the number of families, by constituency, with tax credit awards as at selected dates up to April 2008 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Working Tax Credit: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Enfield North constituency receive working tax credit. [202859]

Jane Kennedy: In 2005-06, the average number of families receiving working tax credits in the Enfield North constituency was 2,500.

This information is from the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Geographical Analysis", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2006-07 is due to be published on 20 May 2008.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which items are prohibited from being *(a)* posted, *(b)* shipped in military transport and *(c)* individually carried from (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan by (A) members of the armed forces and (B) departmental civilians. [203212]

Des Browne: All armed forces personnel and MOD staff are subject to stringent internationally recognised civilian standards with regards to posting, shipping in military transport and individually carrying items from any theatre of operations. The criteria are defined in the appropriate dangerous goods regulations. The nature of military operations necessitate for national security and operational reasons, some key exemptions such as movement of munitions by air, which are defined in Joint Service Publication 367 for postal and Joint Service Publication 800 for movements and transport.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of airbridge flights for personnel serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been delayed, broken down by number of hours delayed. [203219]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Punctuality data for airbridge flights to and from Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 12 months are set out in the following table:

	Op Telic (Iraq)	*Op Herrick (Afghanistan)*
		Percentage
On time or less than one hour's delay	83	72
Between one and three hours delay	11	11
Between three and six hours delay	3	7
More than six hours delay	4	11

Punctuality is measured against the scheduled time of arrival. Percentages have been rounded and may therefore not total 100 per cent.

The airbridge has provided a consistent and reliable service over the period, moving large numbers of personnel and material into hostile environments under difficult conditions and over strategic distances. Every effort is made to minimise delays.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* fully-armed and *(b)* partially-armed personnel carriers have been lost due to (i) enemy fire and (ii) accidents in (A) Afghanistan and (B) Iraq since 2003. [203233]

Des Browne *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of Taliban insurgents killed by British forces in Afghanistan since 2001. [203657]

Des Browne: We do not routinely collate data on the number of insurgents killed by UK forces in Afghanistan. Collecting accurate information would be extremely difficult, given the dynamic nature of the conflict. As we have repeatedly made clear, the long term means to defeat the insurgency in Afghanistan is through a wide range of military and non-military activities and not through an attritional military campaign. In many instances, therefore, the inevitable risks to our service personnel from trying accurately to collect the information required to answer this question outweigh the benefits from obtaining that data.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last reduced specifications on the new aircraft carriers. [203332]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials agreed the latest version of the ship specification for the new aircraft carriers with industry in January 2008.

Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest Chief of the General Staff Briefing Team Report. [200934]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes. I shall place a copy of the most recently published Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team report, covering the second half of 2007 in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Graduates

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many university graduates joined *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in each of the last five years. [203615]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* rules, *(b)* procedures and *(c)* standards set up by his Department are for (i) quality evaluation, (ii) maintenance and (iii) allocation of housing; when these were last (A) reviewed and (B) modified; and if he will make a statement. [196972]

Derek Twigg: This Department keeps its estate under constant review to ensure that it is of the right size and quality to meet defence needs. All 70,193 Service Families Accommodation (SFA) properties worldwide are assessed by Grade for Charge (GfC), which takes account the physical condition of the accommodation and other factors such as location and closeness to amenities.

There are four levels of GfC, one being the highest and four the lowest. The "Four Tier Grading System" (4TG) is normally reviewed every four years and the Services agree how changes, which have taken place during the previous four years, will be reflected in the 4TG Regulations and whether the scoring criteria should be reviewed. However, this Department is currently conducting a review of the 4TG to ensure it is transparent and simple to understand.

Maintenance of SFA worldwide is carried-out under a number of separate contractual arrangements. The majority of properties are maintained by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) who provide a response maintenance service to occupants via a freephone Helpdesk which prioritises calls on an emergency, urgent or routine basis. MHS also carries out planned maintenance, such as the replacement of items such as boilers and kitchens.

MHS is contractually required to provide this Department with monthly performance statistics and is subject to spot checks and percentage audits of work completed and in progress to ensure that contractual conditions and standards are being met.

Regulations governing the allocation and occupation of Service accommodation are set out in Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations (Joint Service Publication 464) which is reviewed continually, and was last updated in September 2007.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel were serving as part of *(a)* UN and *(b)* NATO forces at the latest date for which figures are available; and where such forces are stationed. [203656]

Des Browne: As at 28 April 2008 there were 300 UK service personnel deployed on UN operations, 280 of whom were located in Cyprus. Other locations include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

As at 28 April 2008 there were 9,050 UK service personnel serving as part of NATO forces, of which 8,900 were located in Afghanistan and 150 were located in the Balkans region.

The figure for Afghanistan is artificially high due to the handover period while Relief In Place (RIP) is in operation. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which country each part of the Combat Soldier 95 uniform is manufactured. [203405]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Combat Soldier 95 uniforms are part of the Cut and Sew contract awarded to Cooneen Watts and Stone Ltd. in June 2004. The majority of the items are manufactured in China, with some small quantities being made in the UK and Lithuania.

Armed Forces: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many school leavers joined the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force in each of the last five years. [203658]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will propose changes to the *(a)* management and *(b)* procedures and systems at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield to reduce the likelihood of any future necessary cessation of services on safety grounds; and if he will make a statement. [202083]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The nuclear site licensee at AWE Burghfield is AWE plc, which manages the site under Government owned/contractor operated arrangements. The external regulator, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), is satisfied that operations are safe and has not taken action to stop live nuclear work at AWE Burghfield. Ministry of Defence officials maintain a constant dialogue with AWE plc and NII colleagues. There is therefore no reason for ministerial intervention.

Defence Estates: Charities

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy on charging charities to host fundraising events on Ministry of Defence property is. [202383]

Derek Twigg: The Department's policy on charging is set out in JSP 368, the MOD Guide to Repayment, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. Where services/facilities are provided to external organisations (including charities), the full costs of those services/facilities should normally be recovered. Consideration is given to abating charges if the benefit to the MOD justifies it.

Departmental Contracts

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies have been given strategic partner status by his Department. [202003]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence has strategic partnering arrangements with BAE Systems, AgustaWestland and EADS. The latter is an agreement between EADS and HM Government.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on the appeal to the Information Tribunal in Campaign Against Arms Trade vs The Information Commissioner and Ministry of Defence (EA/2007/40); and what fees have been paid to his Department's counsel in this case. [202699]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Legal fees incurred up to the end of March 2008 in defending the appeal brought by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade were £35,155.12. These are made up of £26,391.29 paid to the Treasury Solicitor and £8,763.83 paid to counsel.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 796W, on what pay bands are applied to press officers in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* regional press offices; and how many press officers are in each band. [199668]

Derek Twigg: The Pay bands and number of Press Officers in each band is set out in the following table. This includes staff employed in the Central Press Office in London and Regional Defence Press Officers.

Pay Bands from 1 August 2007

Pay Band	*Minima*	*Maxima*	*Press Officer Numbers*
E2	12,694	19,315	0
E1	14,721	23,534	0
D	19,315	26,626	0
C2	24,725	33,253	13
C1	31,650	40,515	4
B2	41,528	54,488	10
B1	50,958	68,048	1
SCS ML1	55,100	116,000	1
Total:			29

It does not include those employed as press officers in the Defence Agencies, the Permanent Joint Head Quarters, single Service Commands or at Unit level, some of whom have a press officer task in addition to their main role.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based; [200751]

(2) what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91; [200752]

(3) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement; [200753]

(4) what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by 1 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [200754]

(5) what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its Executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200755]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence is only responsible for the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS). The Cabinet Office has responsibility for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The information requested on the AFPS is contained within the AFPS resource accounts which are available in the Library of the House. The first set of resource accounts produced for the AFPS was for financial year 1998-99. These were un-audited as this was regarded as a 'dry run' for resource accounting within the MOD.

None was produced prior to this and therefore information is only available from this date. The first formal set of AFPS resource accounts to be published was in financial year 1999-2000.

It should also be noted that the AFPS is a non-contributory pension scheme and as such, the only contributions made are those made by the employer, which in this case is the MOD.

The total cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) for the pensions of the 11 highest paid members of the MOD totalled some £13.945 million as at 31 March 2008. Many of these individuals are named in the remuneration reports that form part of the MOD's resource accounts and the cash equivalent transfer value of their public sector pensions is therefore reported annually. The remuneration reports are already in the public domain. I have reported 11 highest paid members

of staff because the 10th and 11th members of staff are on the same salary rate. The CETV figure given includes both armed forces and civilian personnel.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months; [198939]

(2) how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198968]

Derek Twigg: The MOD reports sickness absence figures over a 12 month period on a quarterly basis and does not report working days lost on a monthly basis. The MOD does not have a specific sickness absence code for stress. Stress falls within the Mental and Behavioural Disorders ICD10 category, which includes anxiety, depression and stress. The following table shows the number of working days lost for Ministry of Defence Civilian personnel[1] which was attributed to Mental and Behavioural Disorders ICD10 category for the 12 month period preceding each quarter point.

[1] This includes all permanent and casual non-industrial and industrial civilian personnel, but excludes Trading Fund (except the 31 December 2007 figure), Locally Engaged Civilian and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel.

Total working days lost due to Mental and Behavioural disorders in the preceding 12 month period

Qtr ending	*Industrial*	*Non-industrial*	*Total*
31 December 2005	24,680	79,670	104,340
30 March 2006	23,070	76,620	99,690
30 June 2006	22980	75,390	98,380
30 September 2006	21,730	74,950	96,680
31 December 2006	24,730	74,640	99,370
30 March 2007	25,640	105,150	[1]130,790
30 June 2007	24,530	102,790	127,320
30 September 2007	25,510	102,990	128,500
31 December 2007	25,380	99,570	[2]135,040

[1] Figures from March 2007 onwards are calculated using the Cabinet Office definition of Working Days. Figures prior to this are calculated using the Standardised definition.

[2] Total includes Trading Fund personnel, due to a change in definition. Industrial and non-industrial totals may differ from previously published figures for 2007 due to this change in definition.

Data on the number of staff who took between five and 40 days sick leave due to stress could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department owns land in any of the 15 locations short-listed as possible eco-towns. [201840]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) owns land in four of the 15 potential locations short-listed as possible eco-towns.

Serial	*Proposed eco-town*	*MOD establishment*
1	Bordon-Whitehill, Hampshire	Bordon Garrison
2	Weston-Otmoor, Oxfordshire	RAF Weston on the Green
3	Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire	RAF Newton
4	Leeds City Region	RAF Church Fenton

The Department also has a residual legal interest in the land at former RAF Coltishall. This is being transferred under departmental agreement for use by the Ministry of Justice, but we have yet to convey the freehold to the new owner.

HMS Endurance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of time HMS Endurance was *(a)* at sea and *(b)* undergoing maintenance in each year since 1997. [203404]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The percentage of time HMS Endurance spent at sea and undergoing support maintenance in each year since 1997 was as follows:

Calendar year	*Days at sea percentage*	*Support maintenance percentage*
1997	42	15
1998	38	9
1999	26	49
2000	42	3
2001	42	11
2002	47	17
2003	51	11
2004	28	38
2005	47	9
2006	44	9
2007	47	21

The remainder of her time was spent alongside training, self maintenance and periods of leave.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of medical personnel serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan were reservists in the latest period for which figures are available. [200940]

Des Browne: The proportions of UK medical personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan who are reservists, as at April 2008, are 7 per cent. and 31 per cent. respectively. There is a total of around 200 UK medical personnel deployed in each theatre.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what competencies and powers the Royal Military Police have to investigate allegations of misconduct by *(a)* British nationals and *(b)* nationals of other countries, other than Iraqis who are employees of private military or security companies contracted to work in Iraq by his Department and British armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [202976]

Des Browne *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The Ministry of Defence has no active contracts with Private Military or Security Companies (PMSC) in Iraq.

Under the Army Act 1955 the RMP has jurisdiction over individuals employed in the service of, (or accompanying, such as dependents in Cyprus and Germany), a body of the regular forces that is on active service. It does not matter whether the civilian is British or a national of another country or whether they are employees of PMSCs.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent tour intervals are of those units serving in the next roulement for Operation Telic. [203203]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 522-4W.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of units serving in the next roulement for Operation Telic is. [203204]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 24 April, *Official Report*, columns 107-109WS. There have been no changes since my statement.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 58W, on Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations, for what reasons his Department does not keep records of the nationality of individuals killed in engagements involving UK forces in Iraq or Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [203476]

Des Browne: It is not possible to maintain accurate records of the nationalities of individuals killed by UK forces in Iraq or Afghanistan. Although battle damage assessments are conducted following an engagement, insurgents frequently do not carry documents that reliably indicate their nationality. Additionally the circumstances of engagements mean that the risks to UK forces remaining at the scene would frequently outweigh any benefits from attempting to confirm nationalities; many engagements are also conducted at ranges where UK personnel are unable to reach any insurgent fatalities before they are removed.

Military Bands: Training

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what circumstances bandsmen are being trained with live ammunition for active front-line service. [203333]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Musicians of the Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force receive the same initial training as any other recruit joining their respective Service. Part of this initial training package will cover weapon handling and shooting; including the firing of live ammunition. These skills are reinforced periodically through mandatory training and testing.

Service personnel, including musicians, receive theatre-specific training prior to deployment on operations. This training includes live firing and weapon handling elements. All Service musicians deploying on operations will be issued with a personal weapon. Most will deploy in medical support roles, where the need to provide armed protection of themselves and casualties may arise.

Navy: Piracy

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the Royal Navy *(a)* arresting pirates at sea and *(b)* rendering arrested pirates for justice before (i) United Kingdom and (ii) non-United Kingdom courts. [203580]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy is prepared to meet the United Kingdom's obligations under international law with respect to piracy, in particular the United Nations Conventions on the Laws of the Sea.

Piracy

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what guidance his Department issues to Royal Navy ships operating in or passing through areas where there is a risk of piracy on *(a)* intervention in and *(b)* taking active steps to prevent acts of piracy; [202712]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* UK-registered and *(b)* Royal Navy ships operating in or passing through areas in and near Somali territorial waters where there is a risk of piracy on (i) intervention in and (ii) taking active steps to prevent acts of piracy in the last five years. [203016]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy provides Commanding Officers with classified policy and legal advice to enable them to fulfil the United Kingdom's obligations under international law, including in particular, the United Nations Conventions on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The Department for Transport is responsible for providing advice to UK registered ships on piracy and maritime armed robbery. Up until December 2007, the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) produced the World Wide Threat to Shipping which was available via the Royal Navy website. Although this publication has now ceased, the DIS continue to provide assistance to the Department for Transport.

Royal Military Academy: Foreigners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many overseas cadets were trained at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in each of the last five years. [203681]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2016-20W to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague).

Saudi Arabia: Defence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the memorandum of understanding with Saudi Arabia on the Saudi British Defence Cooperation Programme was signed; what the scope of the memorandum is; and whether it supersedes the al-Yamamah memoranda of understanding of *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1986 and *(c)* 1988. [201672]

Des Browne: The UK and Saudi Arabian Governments agreed to close al-Yamamah at the end of 2006. It was further agreed that support for equipment already in service with the Saudi Arabian armed forces should be provided under a new and discrete defence co-operation programme funded through the Saudi Arabian Defence Budget. This new arrangement has been named the Saudi British Defence Co-operation Programme (SBDCP) and it has been in operation since the beginning of 2007. There is no separate memorandum of understanding governing the operation and structure of the SBDCP, which operates under the auspices of the 1986 MOU.

Territorial Army: Officers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many potential Territorial Army officers are undergoing training. [203178]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Brigade Regional Training Centres are the primary source of young officers into the Territorial Army. There are currently 284 potential officers under training through these centres.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Territorial Army (TA) officers were commissioned into the TA in each year since 1997; [203189]

(2) how many Territorial Army officers left the Territorial Army in each year since 1997. [203215]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the total intake and outflow for Territorial Army Officers during the period 1 October 2003 to 28 February 2007. October 2003 is the earliest date for which reliable TA inflow and outflow data are available.

Inflow and outflow of Territorial Army officers by calendar year[1,2,3,4]

Calendar year	*Inflow*[5]	*Outflow*[6]
2003[7]	130	80
2004	490	630
2005	390	560
2006	370	600
2007[8,9]	50	120

[1] The data exclude Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS), Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) and Mobilised TA.
[2] The data are based on flows during the period 1 October 2003 to 31 December 2003, calendar years 2004, 2005, and 2006, and the period 1 January 2007 to 28 February 2007.
[3] The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.
[4] Figures are for officers only.
[5] Inflow figures include all inflow e.g. intake from civil life and intake from other parts of the armed forces, but does not include the inflow of personnel returning from mobilisation.
[6] Outflow figures exclude those officers who become mobilised.
[7] 1 October to 31 December 2003.
[8] 1 January to 28 February 2007.
[9] Due to the ongoing data validation following the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System, there are no TA flows information available after 1 March 2007.

Veterans: Mental Health

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the development of the community-based mental health programme for veterans announced on 23 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [203327]

Derek Twigg: Four pilots have been launched for a new community-based veterans' mental health service, providing expert assessment and treatment within the NHS, and including input by ex-service charities. These pilots are located at Staffordshire and Shropshire, Camden and Islington, Bishop Auckland and Cardiff Vale. These will be followed shortly by two further pilots in Cornwall and Lothian. The pilots will run for two years. There will be an independent evaluation and the plan is to apply the lessons learned from them nationally. In the interim, for areas not yet covered by the pilots, veterans with mental health problems resulting from operations since 1982 may attend our Medical Assessment Programme based at St. Thomas' Hospital, London.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* timetable of the review of the portable antiquities scheme are; who is to undertake the review; and if he will make a statement. [203898]

Margaret Hodge: The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's (MLA) review of the portable antiquities scheme will examine the objectives of the scheme and options for its future management and delivery. The MLA will make an announcement about the timetable of the review and who will undertake it in due course.

Archaeology: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the operation of the portable antiquities scheme of the decision to maintain funding for the scheme at 2007-08 levels in 2008-09. [203906]

Margaret Hodge: I have made no such assessment

The portable antiquities scheme (PAS) is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and administered on their behalf by the British Museum. Any assessment regarding the scheme is, therefore, a matter for the MLA and the British Museum. The MLA recognises that the PAS is of national importance and will be conducting a review of the scheme in partnership with other stakeholders.

Architecture: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been paid to Culture 24 for services relating to the Engaging Places project. [202343]

Margaret Hodge: Culture24 has been paid £23,500 to produce an Engaging Places editorial strategy and online web portal of heritage and built environment education opportunities that will be made available to schools later this year.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding he has allocated for the Engaging Places project; and how much of this has been allocated to the provision of online resources to accompany the project. [202344]

Margaret Hodge: In 2007-08 DCMS provided £75,000 of support towards research, piloting a network of learning providers and the development of an online website portal in partnership with Culture24. Other funding support came from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and English Heritage. Out of the total budget for Engaging Places £50,000 was allocated towards the research, design and development of a web portal. Culture24 is providing the web portal and consultancy services.

In 2008-09 DCMS will contribute £100,000 to support the next phase of Engaging Places. This will support the appointment of a new online editor for the Engaging Places website and the development of a network linking learning providers and schools with an interest in heritage and the built environment. Additional support will come from CABE and English Heritage.

Arts Council England: Art Works

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value of works of art owned by Arts Council England was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [203092]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England's (ACE) collection was formed in 1946 for the purpose of promoting and enriching the nation's knowledge and appreciation of contemporary art, through touring exhibitions and loans to galleries and public buildings throughout the country. The collection consists of over 7,600 pieces and its value was:

	£
2005-06	51,838,000
2006-07	68,220,000
2007-08	72,487,485

These figures have been provided by ACE. The figures for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are audited valuations; the 2007-08 figure is based on a valuation that has not yet been audited.

Arts Council England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England awarded in grants in each year since 1997. [203090]

Margaret Hodge: This information has been provided by Arts Council England (ACE) and is set out in the table. The figures have been sourced from ACE's published annual accounts. Aside from grant making, ACE also expends grant in aid monies directly on arts activities.

£000

Year	GIA grants awarded	Lottery grants	Total grants
1996-97	180,525	344,450	524,975
1997-98	182,655	455,794	638,449
1998-99	188,293	57,925	246,218
1999-2000	214,232	182,288	396,520
2000-01	232,955	131,282	364,237
2001-02	239,407	162,833	402,240
2002-03	261,330	120,455	381,785
2003-04	277,039	168,188	445,227
2004-05	316,090	189,891	505,981
2005-06	352,401	210,928	563,329
2006-07	374,861	141,460	516,321
Total	2,819,788	2,165,494	4,985,282

Betting Shops

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1137W, on betting shops, how much and what percentage of the Tote's revenue came from these terminals in each year since 1997. [202832]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Category B2 gaming machines (formerly called Fixed Odds Betting Terminals) in betting shops did not contribute to the Tote's revenues before 2002-03. Since 2002-03 their contribution to gross profit has been as follows:

	£ million	Percentage
2002-03	2.678	2.8
2003-04	15.331	12.2
2004-05	21.736	16.4
2005-06	29.232	20.9
2006-07	35.265	22.4

Casinos: Gaming Machines

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what restrictions are placed on the number of slot machines in land-based casinos established under the Gaming Act 1968; and if he will review them. [203021]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* In October 2005 the number of category B gaming machines which casinos licensed under the Gaming Act 1968 are permitted to offer was doubled to 20. Alternatively, they are permitted to offer an unlimited number of category C and category D machines. There are no plans to revisit these allocations.

Coastal Areas: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will provide a break down of the sources of funding for the Sea Change programme. [202337]

Margaret Hodge: The £45 million Sea Change fund (£15 million a year over three years 2008-11) will come from DCMS departmental funds made available through the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Partnership funding for large grants will come from regional development agencies and other public and private sources. Local authorities will be encouraged to seek partnership funding for projects eligible under the open application programme from a variety of public, private and voluntary sector sources.

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments VisitLondon made to *(a)* Mandate Communications and *(b)* AS Biss and Co in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202304]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not have responsibility for Visit London affairs; any matter relating to this body falls under the remit of the Mayor of London.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate has been made of the value of those parts of Oceanic house for which his Department is responsible; and what progress has been made on a possible sale. [203000]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No valuation has been placed on the parts of Oceanic house that the Department had occupied as the areas were leased. The Department is not involved in the sale of the property but is at present negotiating its exit from the lease agreement with the landlord's agents.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of building services was to his Department in each of the last three years; and how much he expects them to cost in each of the next three years. [203098]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Building services have been taken to mean facilities management, catering, security, reprographics and mail room services. The total costs to the Department are as follows.

	Cost (£)	*Actual/Estimate*
2005-06	3,009,532	Actual
2006-07	3,156,969	Actual
2007-08	2,834,495	Estimate[1]
2008-09	2,471,000	Estimate
2009-10	2,541,000	Estimate
2010-11	2,533,000	Estimate

[1] Departmental resource accounts are still being processed and this estimate may be subject to minor change.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what savings his Department has identified as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review value for money programme; and when he expects these savings to be realised. [202347]

Andy Burnham: The Department has identified £149.4 million value for money (VfM) savings. This exceeds our target from HM Treasury of £148 million savings. Further details of these savings, including when we expect to realise them, can be found in our VfM Delivery Agreement, copies of which are available in the House Libraries.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201744]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has developed an energy strategy with a detailed action plan with key action dates and assigned responsibilities.

As part of the Department's refurbishment of its Headquarters at Cockspur Street we installed energy efficient light fittings. This is 30 per cent. more efficient than previous fittings. The Ground Floor was installed with the manufacturer's advanced light fitting which is 60 per cent. more efficient.

The Department is supplied with 100 per cent. renewable electricity supplied under the OGC Buying Solutions contract.

The Department was accredited to the Carbon Trust administered Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme.

Energy expenditure is a follows:

	£
2007-08	343,352
2006-07[1]	486,665

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the act came into force. [201722]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 75 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 67, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1744W, on departmental public participation, what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* number of respondents was for each (i) survey, (ii) questionnaire and (iii) other service. [203103]

Margaret Hodge: The number of respondents and costs for each survey (including questionnaire development, data cleaning, analysis and presentation) are given as follows. For the 'other service' the number of respondents is not applicable as this is an online data manipulation tool.

Service	*Respondents*	*Cost (£000)*
Surveys and Questionnaires		
Taking Part	26,500	2,818 50
Omnibus survey—Olympics legacy	22,115	
DCMS staff survey	459	22
Non-departmental public body survey	104	4
Other services		
NetQuest development	n/a	101

Departmental Research

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's joint research budget will be in each of the next three years; and what projects have been commissioned from the budget to date. [203093]

Margaret Hodge: The total value for the budget for conducting joint research for each of the next three years is as follows:

	£000
	Budget
2008-09	3,424
2009-10	3,431
2010-11	3,438

We have yet to commission anything from this budget, though we are in the final stages of contracting our national survey of participation ('Taking Part') which is covered by this budget.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198938]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested can only be provided at a disproportionate cost to the Department. The Department has an additional responsibility to protect the identity of its staff.

However, I am able to provide the following information set out as follows.

2007

Total days lost were 2,375. Of these 35.45 per cent. were due to mental disorders which included stress—related illnesses.

2006

Total days lost were 2,687. Of these 27 per cent. were due to mental disorders which included stress—related illnesses.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198953]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The years for which figures are available are:

	Annual working days lost (AWDL)	*Total days lost*
2007	4.6	2,375
2006	4.9	2,687
2005	6.6	4,560

Working Days lost per staff year
2004 5.6

Engaging Places

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the Engaging Places research into heritage and built environment education; and how much this research has cost to date. [203008]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS expects to publish the Engaging Places research into the supply and demand of heritage and built environment education in England shortly. The research into heritage and built environment education has cost in total £53,618.36 (including VAT), and the evaluation of options to take Engaging Places forward cost £24,827.75 (including VAT).

English Sports Council

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the new Sport England Strategy and Business Plan. [203882]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This report will be published shortly and I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

English Sports Council: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been raised by UK Sport towards the target of £100 million of private sector funding for elite sport programmes ahead of the 2012 Olympic Games. [203884]

Andy Burnham: The fund raising aspect of this project has not yet started. The Department continues to work with UK Sport and others in the development of proposals for raising £100 million of private sector funding for elite athletes. Further details will be announced in due course.

Fast Track

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contracts his Department has with the marketing agency Fast Track; what the value of these contracts is; and what services are being supplied under them. [202342]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not have any contracts in place with Fast Track.

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether gambling licences issued under the Gaming Act 1968 can be transferred to different premises within the designated local authority areas. [202887]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Existing gaming licences issued under the Gaming Act 1968 Act have now been converted into the relevant premises licence under the Gambling Act 2005. A converted casino licence can only be relocated to premises which are situated within the area of the licensing authority which issued the licence. A converted bingo premises licence cannot be relocated to different premises.

Lacrosse: Finance

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Youth Sport Trust spent on the development of lacrosse in the last 12 months. [203639]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As a registered charity, the work of the Youth Sport Trust is to help build a better future for young people through sport. They are working with the network of school sport partnerships and sports colleges across the country to ensure all young people have access to at least five hours of PE and school sport by 2012. Their remit is not to fund individual sports, so they have not spent any money directly on lacrosse.

Ministerial Steering Board on the Creative Economy

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who sits on the Ministerial Steering Board on the Creative Economy; when it will first meet; and how often he expects it to meet. [203010]

Andy Burnham: The Creative Economy Programme Ministerial Steering Board will be chaired by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State. The Board will include Ministers from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and a number of high-level representatives from across the Creative Sectors. We are currently finalising the membership of the Board and will publish full details on www.cep.culture.gov.uk shortly.

The first meeting will be held by the end of June and will occur approximately quarterly thereafter.

National Lottery: Brass Bands

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been given to brass bands from national lottery funds in each of the last five years. [1] [201218]

Margaret Hodge: The big lottery fund has been able to supply the following figures for the value of relevant grants across the UK in the last five years, including grants made under the Awards for All joint scheme:

	Total value of grants (£)
2003-04	144,293
2004-05	81,314
2005-06	151,542
2006-07	176,572
2007-08	109,663
Total	663,204

Arts Council England has been able to supply the following figures for lottery funding it has provided in the last five years for activities or projects that involve brass and silver bands. Arts Council England state that these figures have been prepared using a more

1. *[Official Report, 20 May 2008, Vol. 476, c. 3MC.]*

sophisticated classification system than previously used. This system has been introduced to allow the Arts Council to more accurately classify projects that involve a number of different art forms or activities.

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£ Total
Activities or projects that involve brass or silver bands to some extent	39,315	78,958	72,214	21,890	39,972	252,349
Activities or projects that predominantly or wholly involve brass or silver bands	35,860	60,521	23,687	67,410	13,930	201,408
Total	75,175	139,479	95,901	89,300	53,902	453,757

'Some extent', is defined as funded activity or project classified as 25 per cent. or 50 per cent. relating to brass or silver bands. 'Predominantly or wholly', is defined as funded activity classified as 75 per cent. or 100 per cent. relating to brass or silver bands.

In addition youth music (which distributes lottery funds on behalf of the Arts Council) has provided the following financial support to the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain:

National youth brass band of Great Britain (£)

2003-04	100,000
2004-05	110,000
2005-06	120,000
2006-07	120,000
2007-08	123,000
Total	573,000

National Lottery: North West

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many projects received lottery funding in *(a)* Wirral South constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* the North West in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [202918]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information appears in the following table:

Number of lottery grants

	2006-07	2007-08
Wirral, South constituency	11	15
County of Merseyside	523	393
North west region	2,544	1,849

The statistics are derived from the Department's Lottery Grants database, which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors and is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much lottery funding was made available in *(a)* Wirral South constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* the North West in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [202919]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information appears in the following table:

[1]£000

Value of lottery grants

	2006/07	2007/08
Wirral, South constituency	77	349
County of Merseyside	32,261	22,576
North west region	99,331	117,076

[1] Rounded to nearest £1,000

The statistics are derived from the Department's Lottery Grants Database, which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors and is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk.

Playgrounds: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department provided to the Department for Children, Schools and Families-led Sporting Playgrounds scheme in each of the last five years; and what contributions his Department plans to make in each of the next three years. [203095]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 March, *Official Report*, column 144W.

In April 2005 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, announced a £2 million investment to extend the Sporting Playgrounds programme which is also funded through the DCSF. This scheme refurbishes existing primary school playgrounds to enhance opportunities for sporting activity. Over 600 primary school playgrounds have been developed since the programme began in 2001.

There are no plans for a Sporting Playgrounds programme over the next three years.

Recreation Spaces: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on parks and green spaces in the London Borough of Enfield in real terms in each year since 1997. [202861]

Margaret Hodge: The DCMS has not spent any money on parks and green spaces in the London borough of Enfield as the Department does not directly fund these amenities—funding at local level is provided to local authorities via Communities and Local Government.

DCMS mainly channels its Exchequer funding via its family of non-departmental public bodies, who provide a wide variety of services at national, regional and local levels.

S4C: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department plans to provide for S4C in each of the next three years. [203099]

Andy Burnham: The grant-in-aid estimate for 2008-09 is £98,112,000.

The annual increase for S4C is calculated by a statutory formula under section 61 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as amended). As this formula refers to the Retail Price Index in future years, exact figures for future years have not yet been calculated.

Strategic, Necessary and Proportionate Test

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff were involved in developing the strategic, necessary and proportionate test; and if he will provide a breakdown of the costs of developing the test by main budget heading. [203003]

Margaret Hodge: The strategic, necessary and proportionate test was developed following a series of staff and NDPB workshops and discussions as part of the DCMS transformation programme, responding to the DCMS Capability review. Discussions were led by a small volunteer taskforce of staff reporting to a DCMS Director. It is not possible to confirm exact staff numbers involved, or staff costs (although they are expected to be minimal). The test was developed to clarify the principles and factors DCMS should consider when choosing what work to pursue and how to approach it in order to maximise the 'added value' delivered by the Department and hence deliver the maximum possible value for the public.

Tourism Strategy Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to continue funding the Tourism Strategy Fund. [203015]

Margaret Hodge: As my hon. Friend the Minister for Sport set out in his reply to the hon. Member for South West Surrey on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1753W, the Tourism Strategy Fund was a time limited budget. It was used to fund a number of tourism support initiatives arising from the policy document Tomorrow's Tourism in 1999.

Substantial support for tourism from DCMS continues, and is now used to take forward the objectives set out last September in Winning, the DCMS Strategy for the 2012 Games. This work is funded from DCMS grant-in-aid to VisitBritain (£49.9 million in 2007-08), to the Regional Development Agencies (£3.6 million in 2007-08), and the Greater London Authority (£1.9 million in 2007-08).

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his latest estimate is of the tourism deficit; and how this figure compares to the equivalent for 1997. [202088]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The UK's tourism balance of payments deficit was £4.8 billion in 1997, and £18.4 billion in 2006.

This change reflects rising prosperity in the UK over the last decade, and easier and cheaper air travel. The Government are working with the industry to make holidaying in this country more attractive to UK residents and we published our strategy "Winning: A Tourism Strategy for 2012 and Beyond" last September. I hold regular meetings with the tourism industry as we work in partnership to implement the strategy.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Disorder Zones: Finance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on planning the national implementation of alcohol disorder zones. [192831]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1274W.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the contribution of the Pubwatch scheme to reducing alcohol-related crime and disorder; and if she will make a statement. [203172]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* There has been no formal assessment of the contribution of the Pubwatch scheme in relation to the reduction of alcohol related crime and disorder.

The Home Office is aware that Pubwatch operates in a number of areas, some of which are more active than others. Pubwatch operates alongside other measures to tackle alcohol related disorder, and therefore it is not possible to quantify the contribution made by the Pubwatch scheme in isolation. However, the Government are of the view that where active, it may contribute to a reduction in antisocial behaviour and alcohol related crime and disorder. Additionally it will also positively contribute to the development of effective partnerships between the police and the alcohol industry.

Alcoholic Drinks: Public Order Offences

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in a public place in each of the last two years. [191315]

Mr. Coaker: The number of cautions and penalty notices for disorder issued, along with the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, for drunk and disorderly offences in England and Wales for the years 2005 and 2006 can be viewed in the following tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: The number of cautions issued and the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, for drunk and disorderly offences in England and Wales for the years 2005 and 2006[1,3,4]

	Proceeded against	Caution[2]
2005	17,734	8,263
2006	17,313	5,477

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. Reprimands and final warnings are included in the above data.
[3] Data includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12: Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91: Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

Table 2: The number of penalty notices for disorder issued for the offences Drunk and disorderly, and Drunk in a highway in England and Wales for the years 2005 and 2006[1,2,3]

	Drunk and disorderly	Drunk in a highway
2005	37,038	3,138
2006	43,556	2,712

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12: Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91: Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how alcohol confiscated during the two-week enforcement campaign against underage drinking in February 2008 was disposed of. [200917]

Jacqui Smith: In line with the legislation the alcohol confiscated during the campaign was disposed of in such a manner as considered appropriate by the confiscating officer.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire) of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 666-8W, on alcohol drinks: young people, if she will publish equivalent figures for West Midlands Police force area on *(a)* the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, *(b)* the number of offenders cautioned and *(c)* the number of penalty notices for disorder issued. [193918]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 666-8W. Police force areas were not included in the table where there was no data for defendants proceeded against, cautioned or issued with a PND for illegal alcohol purchasing. This was referenced in footnote number 4.

Borders

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passenger movements there were across UK borders in each of the last five years. [203609]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The International Passenger Survey results in the following table show the total number of visits made to and from the UK. These are based on departures of overseas residents and arrivals of UK residents by air, sea and channel tunnel.

Thousand

	Visits to the UK by overseas residents	Visits abroad by UK residents	Total visits
2003	24,715	61,424	86,139
2004	27,755	64,194	91,949
2005	29,970	66,441	96,411
2006	32,713	69,536	102,249
2007[1]	33,745	71,113	104,858

[1] Provisional.
Source:
International Passenger Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Burglary

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of burglaries that go unreported in England and Wales each year; and if she will make a statement. [198190]

Jacqui Smith: The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely collects information on whether or not crimes are reported to the police and this is presented in the annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin Crime in England and Wales, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of unreported burglaries and break-ins in the last year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [200547]

Jacqui Smith: The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely collects information on whether or not crimes are reported to the police and this is presented in the annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin Crime in England and Wales, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Burglary: Greater London

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many burglaries were reported in each London borough in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for burglary in each such borough and year. [200548]

Jacqui Smith: The available data relate to the number of recorded offences of burglary and are given in the following table. I am informed that information on the number of defendants proceeded against or found

guilty for an offence in each London borough are not separately identifiable from the data reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Offences of burglary recorded by the police by London borough

Number

Borough	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	2,012	2,240	2,175	1,921	2,117
Barnet	4039	3,978	4,045	4,363	3,904
Bexley	2341	2,226	1,986	2,366	2,076
Brent	3,859	4,062	3,987	3,904	3,330
Bromley	3,596	3,472	3,776	3,926	3,588
Camden	5,884	4,843	4,171	4,108	4,322
City of Westminster	5,264	4,296	4,497	4,158	3,801
Croydon	4,115	3,769	3,230	3,582	3,464
Ealing	4,543	4,375	4,350	4,999	3,957
Enfield	4301	3,865	3,528	3,844	3,638
Greenwich	2,986	3,080	2,970	3,209	3,241
Hackney	4,807	4,327	3,897	3,547	2,687
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,089	2,827	3,023	3,052	2,732
Haringey	4,356	4,115	4,084	3,841	3,559
Harrow	2,736	2,626	2,178	2,446	1,959
Havering	2,386	2,161	2,315	2,453	2,511
Hillingdon	3,569	3,183	3,143	3,137	3,182
Hounslow	3,374	3,450	2,969	2,982	2594
Islington	4,429	3,957	3,681	3,683	3,728
Kensington and Chelsea	2,512	2,576	2,580	2,444	2,182
Kingston upon Thames	985	939	984	1,188	1,038
Lambeth	5,694	4,980	4,150	3,884	3,685
Lewisham	3,708	3,837	3,778	3,524	3,579
Merton	1930	2,034	1,764	1,796	1,828
Newham	3,494	3,398	3,410	4,112	3,371
Redbridge	2,974	2,990	3,058	3,282	3,053
Richmond upon Thames	2,120	1,787	2,017	2,395	2,085
Southwark	4,885	4,556	4,411	4,143	4,087
Sutton	1,446	1,397	1,429	1,480	1,451
Tower Hamlets	3,567	3,023	3,070	3,467	2,890
Waltham Forest	3,812	3,284	3,144	3,131	3,116
Wandsworth	4,547	3,664	3,616	3,108	3,945
Total	113,360	105,317	101,416	103,475	96,698

Crime: Internet

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many websites were closed down by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency's e-crime unit in 2006-07. [195539]

Jacqui Smith: The responsibility for closing down fraudulent or malicious websites rests with communication service providers, who act on a variety of information including that which may have been provided by SOCA. SOCA is only directly involved in the closure of the site in the event that the provider has failed to respond to a take down notice, or if data needs to be preserved or acquired for a statutory purpose.

During 2006-07, there were approximately 30 separate occasions where the e-Crime department was directly involved in the removal of such websites.

Crime: Young People

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to include children under 16 years of age in future British Crime Survey statistics; and if she will make a statement. [200513]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to his question on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2081-82W.

Crimes of Violence

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken by her Department to encourage the public to report a greater proportion of knife crime to the police. [200543]

Jacqui Smith: We are focusing considerable resources on highlighting the seriousness of knife crime. We will shortly be launching a public campaign to highlight to young people the risks of carrying knives.

We also support the work of Be Safe, who provide weapons awareness training to young people, and train others to deliver workshops on weapons.

CrimeStoppers are currently running a programme of outreach work, supported by the Home Office, which aims to encourage the reporting of crime, including knife crime.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [203385]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office publishes statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years for the Bexley CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Crimes of Violence: Young People

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of children under 16 years of age who were the victims of *(a)* gun, *(b)* knife and *(c)* all violent crime in each year since 1997. [200512]

Jacqui Smith: Relevant information on firearm offences (excluding air weapons) is available only for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07. It is not possible to identify offences involving knives from the data centrally collected on overall recorded crime. Since April 2007, police forces have been providing separate data on serious violence involving knives. As these are aggregate returns it will not be possible to determine the age of victims.

The age of all violent crime victims is not collected centrally. Available information relates to the number of homicides of persons aged under 16 years between 1997 and 2006-07, where the apparent method of killing was 'sharp instrument' or 'shooting'.

Offences involving victims under 16 years old: England and Wales, 1997 to 2006-07[1]

	Year offence recorded										
	1997	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
(a) Firearms[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,042	1,745	1,315
(b) Knives[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Homicide[4]	82	71	81	65	98	62	93	72	58	52	68
of which involved apparent method:											
Sharp instrument[5]	6	6	2	8	6	9	6	11	1	4	7
Shooting[6]	2	2	0	0	2	5	2	2	2	0	5

[1] Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.
[2] Excluding air weapons. The age of firearm offence victims has been collected centrally only since April 2004.
[3] Data are not centrally collected.
[4] Homicide data are as at 12 November 2007, when recording closed down for the purpose of analysis, and will change as subsequent court hearings take place or other information is received. Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[5] Includes knives and other sharp instruments.
[6] Includes shooting by crossbows.

Criminal Conviction Certificates

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) was of each criminal conviction certificate issued on an individual in each year since the inception of the CRB; what standard fee is paid by individuals requesting a check; how many certificates were requested in each year *(a)* from people wishing to work in the voluntary sector, *(b)* from unemployed people, *(c)* from disabled people, *(d)* from other individuals and *(e)* in total; and if she will make a statement. [198503]

Meg Hillier: The CRB issues higher level disclosures (both standard and enhanced) for employment and licensing purposes, as provided for in Part V of the Police Act 1997.

The cost to the CRB of each standard and enhanced disclosure issued in each financial year since its inception in March 2002 is provided in the following table. The fees charged to individuals that requested a check in each year are also provided.

Unit cost to CRB of each disclosure

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	£ *2006-07*
Standard	27.76	24.94	22.73	19.94	18.34
Enhanced	34.40	31.05	28.09	26.86	24.30
Fees Charged by CRB for each disclosure					
Standard	12	24	28	29	31
Enhanced	12	29	33	34	36

Fees for the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 have been frozen at the 2006-07 level, meaning the cost of a disclosure has not increased since April 2006.

The total number of disclosures requested in each financial year is shown in the following table. The number requested in respect of individuals wishing to work in the voluntary sector is also shown. The CRB does not capture data on whether applicants are unemployed or disabled.

Number of disclosures requested

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total Standard	200,198	289,767	281,045	317,178	328,042
Total Enhanced	1,462,802	2,059,233	2,269,955	2,568,822	2,908,958
Overall Total	1,663,000	2,349,000	2,551,000	2,886,000	3,237,000
Volunteer Applications	272,732	418,122	571,424	574,314	653,874

The CRB has issued over 15 million CRB checks and has developed the capacity to process in excess of 300,000 checks every month. Approximately 20 per cent. of applications are from volunteers and disclosures for volunteers continue to be processed free of charge. This has resulted in a considerable saving for the voluntary sector in excess of £20 million a year for the last four years.

The unit cost to the CRB is the average cost of producing one disclosure, irrespective of whether the disclosure is paid for. As the CRB is self-funding, the processing costs for all the volunteer applications, processed free of charge, needs to be recovered through the fee paid by other applicants; consequently, the fee must be set higher than the unit cost.

Departmental Accountancy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 602W, on departmental accountancy, what the *(a)* monthly, *(b)* year to date and *(c)* annual budget totals are for each budget line forecast for each month since September 2007, arranged by category of expenditure in her Department's annual report and supply estimates. [199849]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* Budget details for the whole year can be found in the 2008-09 Main Supply Estimates (HC 479) and will also be published in the Home Office departmental annual report, in May 2008. They show each area of spend—by estimate line and individual activity respectively, at a disaggregated level. Further detail could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 602W, on departmental accountancy, what the planned annual budget figures are for 2008-09 in each budget line, arranged by category of expenditure in her Department's annual report and supply estimates. [199850]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* Budget details for 2008-09 can be found in the 2008-09 Main Supply Estimates (HC 479) and will also be published in the Home Office departmental annual report, in May 2008. They show each area of spend—by estimate line and individual activity respectively, at a disaggregated level. Further detail could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Employment

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on agency staff in each of the last five years; and what the highest payment to a member of agency staff was in each of those years. [186923]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Department uses a variety of externally resourced staff to fill roles in the Department that cannot readily be filled by permanent staff. The figures given are drawn from our financial reporting systems and represent various categories of agency and other externally resourced staff, but exclude consultancy services.

Information on the Department's spend on agency staff for 2002-03 and 2003-04 is not held centrally and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Figures for expenditure on agency staff in the last three financial years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 is as follows:

Financial Year	*HO Headquarters*	*IPS*	*CRB*	*Total Spend (£)*
2004-05	37,000,000	5,626,207	703,756	43,329,963
2005-06	38,000,000	7,746,589	354,756	46,101,345
2006-07	40,000,000	26,612,732	301,998	66,914,730

The increase in the IPS expenditure on agency staff in 2006-07 was due to the successful introduction of a number of new initiatives which necessitated the use of interim staff. The initiatives included biometric passports, the full roll-out of Personal Identity Process (PIP) to the regions, preparation for Interview Office Network (ION), and facial recognition systems. There was also an increase in costs as work on the National Identity Scheme (NIS) began to develop.

Information on the highest payment to a member of agency staff in each of the last five years is not held centrally and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Firearms: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many gun-related crimes were recorded by the Metropolitan police in *(a)* 2000-01 and *(b)* 2006-07. [196836]

Jacqui Smith: Available centrally collected data relate only to offences where firearms (excluding air weapons) have been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat. The Metropolitan Police Service recorded 3,031 such firearm offences in 2000-01 and 3,327 in 2006-07.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after this date are not directly comparable.

Frontex

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to appeal against the judgments of the European Court of Justice in Case C-77/05 and Case C-137/05 on the UK's position on Frontex. [197052]

Jacqui Smith: We will not be appealing against the European Court of Justice's verdict on our challenge to the UK's exclusion from the Frontex Regulation. The position of the UK in relation to Frontex remains as previously: the Frontex Regulation does not bind nor apply to the UK, but the UK may take part in operations and activities on a case-by-case basis, with the agreement of the Frontex Management Board. The UK Government have a legitimate interest in the security of the external European border and we remain committed to working closely with our European partners and Frontex in strengthening that security.

Identity and Passport Service: Data Protection

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of data security there have been at the Identity and Passport Agency since its inception. [200544]

Jacqui Smith: Except in exceptional circumstances, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

Immigration: Biometrics

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 610W, on immigration: biometrics, when she plans to establish the National Identity Register. [200624]

Jacqui Smith: The National Identity Register will be established when the first identity cards are issued under the Identity Cards Act 2006, starting in the second half of 2009.

Immigration: EC Action

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the outcomes for the UK of the EC Preparatory Action Migration Management—Solidarity in Action 2007 programme; and if she will make a statement. [196308]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Preparatory Action Migration Management—solidarity in Action 2007 is an European Community funding stream whose awards were not granted until November 2007 onwards. The duration of projects funded under the programme can be up to 18 months. As no projects have been completed it is not yet possible to make a statement on the assessment of the outcomes.

Misconduct: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations of assault or professional misconduct against teachers by pupils were reported to the police in each year since 1997. [202071]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office is responsible for the recorded crime statistics which includes data on offences of assault recorded by the police. However, it is not possible to identify the employment status of either the victim or the offender.

Mobile Phones: Theft

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information is required from people who report their mobile phones as stolen to the police before it is recorded as a crime and issued a crime reference number. [201900]

Jacqui Smith: When a mobile phone is stolen, the victim should report the incident to the police. Unless there is evidence to show that the crime did not occur, a crime reference number will be given.

National Criminal Intelligence Service Annual Report

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the National Criminal Intelligence Service Annual Report for 2005-06 will be published. [196840]

Jacqui Smith: The NCIS Annual Report and Accounts for 2005-06 were laid before Parliament on 19 July 2006.

Offensive Weapons: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knife-related violent crimes were committed in London in *(a)* 2000-01 and *(b)* 2006-07. [196837]

Jacqui Smith: It is not possible to identify those offences which are knife-related from the data centrally collected on overall recorded crime. However, since April 2007, police forces have been providing separate aggregate data on serious violence involving knives. Home Office statisticians will assess the quality of these data and it is planned that figures for 2007-08 will be published in the main crime bulletin in July 2008.

Available data from the Homicide Index relate to offences currently recorded as homicide where the apparent method of killing is 'sharp instrument'. Sixty-nine such homicides were recorded in London in each of the 2000-01 and 2006-07 financial years.

Offensive Weapons: Crimes of Violence

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when data on serious violent offences involving the use of knives and sharp instruments will next be published. [200589]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* It is not possible to identify those offences involving knives or sharp instruments from the data centrally collected on overall recorded crime. However, since April 2007, police forces have been providing separate aggregate data on serious violence involving knives. Home Office statisticians will assess the quality of this data and it is planned that figures for 2007-08 will be published in 'Crime in England and Wales 2007-08' in July 2008.

Available data from the Homicide Index relates to offences currently recorded as homicide where the apparent method of killing is 'sharp instrument'. Data relating to the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 are scheduled for publication in January 2009.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she *(a)* was first notified of and *(b)* approved the deployment of Chinese security personnel to accompany the Olympic torch procession on 6 April; [200594]

(2) what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the actions taken by Chinese security personnel in preventing expressions of public protest interfering with the Olympic torch procession on 6 April; [200595]

(3) when the Metropolitan police were notified that Chinese security personnel would be deployed in central London to accompany the Olympic torch on 6 April; [200596]

(4) what her policy is on the use of physical restraint by foreign security personnel against UK citizens during processions in public places, with particular reference to the Olympic torch procession on 6 April; [200597]

(5) how many Chinese security personnel accompanied the Olympic torch on 6 April. [200598]

Mr. Coaker: The Chinese torch attendants were employed by the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic games (BOCOG). Every torch relay has torch attendants from the Olympic organising committee responsible for the flame after it has been handed over to the host city. These attendants are responsible for lighting and extinguishing the torches and accompanying and guarding the flame. They have no policing role and the Home Office accordingly had no role in approving their deployment.

20 Chinese torch attendants accompanied the flame. Their responsibilities were as described in the "Beijing Olympic Torch Relay Community Planning Guide" and the contract between BOCOG and the Greater London authority and the British Olympic authority in the document "Agreement—Olympic Torch Relay Services" dated 12 October 2007. The Chinese team did not have law enforcement authority, and, could "only protect the flame and the torch-bearer by placing themselves between the offender and the torch bearer."

The Metropolitan police service was responsible for policing the event, including protests associated with it and for dealing with any criminal offences committed.

The Home Office has not been made aware of any specific allegations of Chinese torch attendants preventing expressions of public protest.

Anyone who believes that a criminal offence has been committed should report it to the police in the usual way.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons Chinese security personnel accompanied the Olympic torch during its London relay on 6 April; and if she will make a statement. [201375]

Mr. Coaker: Every torch relay has torch attendants from the Olympic organising committee responsible for the flame after it has been handed over to the host city. The Chinese torch attendants were responsible for lighting and extinguishing the torches and accompanying and guarding the flame. The Metropolitan Police Service was responsible for the safety, security and safe passage of the torchbearer and torch as it travelled through London. The Chinese torch attendants had no policing role or executive power in London.

Olympic Games: China

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has made to the Chinese authorities about the deployment of members of China's security forces during the Olympic flame procession in London. [202126]

Mr. Coaker: As with all torch relays, the Olympic flame was accompanied by "torch attendants" employed by the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) the Olympic organising committee responsible for the flame after it has been handed over to the host city. These attendants are responsible for lighting and extinguishing the torches and accompanying and guarding the flame

They did not have any policing or law enforcement responsibilities. Anyone who believes that a criminal offence has been committed should report it to the police in the usual way.

Organised Crime: EC Enlargement

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions have taken place between her Department and authorities in *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Romania and *(c)* Bulgaria on the sharing of criminal intelligence. [200511]

Jacqui Smith: Data sharing to enhance police cooperation is in all EU member states' interests for the purpose of protecting citizens against crime and terrorism. There are a number of EU-wide data sharing initiatives in use and planned, the negotiations for which involve all EU member states.

Passports: Interviews

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of face-to-face passport interviews since their introduction. [198628]

Jacqui Smith: The requirement for face-to-face interviews for adult passport applicants has been phased in gradually, and the Identity and Passport Service's network of interview offices only became fully operational from 66 offices from 28 January this year. The capacity of the network has been increased progressively since July last year. The final office is due to open in May.

The interview requirement has been well received by customers who see this as a positive move in terms of safeguarding their identity. Given that the full volume of interviews is only now being achieved it would be premature to make an assessment of the effectiveness of face-to-face interviews in deterring and detecting fraud.

Personal Records: Private Sector

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal or other constraints are imposed on private companies, including airport operators, in taking and storing fingerprints and other personal data from members of the public. [197292]

Jacqui Smith: The Government take data protection very seriously and keep the law on what measures are needed to strengthen the protection of personal data under continuous review.

The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) provides a comprehensive legal framework of protection (including legal redress) for personal data, including fingerprints and other personal data. The DPA applies

to all organisations that handle information about people, in both the public and private sectors. Therefore, it would be a matter for private companies, including airport operators, to satisfy themselves that they are acting in accordance with the DPA and other relevant legislation, including the Human Rights Act 1998.

Police: Firearms

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are trained in the use of arms; and how many are available in the Metropolitan police area. [201901]

Jacqui Smith: At 31 March 2007 there were 6,728 authorised firearms officers in England and Wales. 2,584 of those authorised firearms officers were in the Metropolitan Police Service.

Proceeds of Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what uses the £125 million of criminal assets recovered in 2006-07 was put. [200919]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office paid back 50 per cent. of recovered criminal assets to the police and other front-line agencies under the asset recovery incentive scheme. The scheme is designed to reward past performance and drive up future asset recovery activity. The remaining 50 per cent. contributed to core Home Office expenditure priorities, including policing and other asset recovery measures.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what amount of assets recovered in 2006-07 has been paid back to *(a)* the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(c)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(d)* police forces in England and Wales under the Assets Recovery Incentive Scheme. [200920]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is as follows:

		£ million
(a)	Serious Organised Crime Agency	1.53
(b)	HM Revenue and Customs	12.01
(c)	Crown Prosecution Service	8.11
(d)	Police forces in England and Wales	15.49

Rape

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded instances of *(a)* rape and *(b)* domestic violence there were in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each year since 1997; and what the clear-up rate for each was in each of those years. [200358]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 642-46W.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10, (ii) 11 to 15, (iii) 16 to 19, (iv) 20 to 25, (v) 26 to 30, (vi) 31 to 40, (vii) 41 to 50, (viii) 51 to 60 and (ix) 60 years and over were recorded as the victims of rape in each of the last 10 years. [203252]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on the number of rape offences recorded by the police but no information is available on the age of the victim.

Wildlife: Crime

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many wildlife crime officers there were in each year since 1997 for which figures are available, broken down by region. [202681]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information, on number of wildlife crime officers, is not collected centrally.

Decisions on how wildlife crime is addressed, including decisions on resourcing and staffing, are matters for the police service. These decisions will be made by the chief constable in the light of the competing demands on the force and the priorities of the local communities.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many wildlife crimes were committed in each year since 1997 for which figures are available, broken down by region; and how many successful prosecutions there were. [202682]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number of wildlife crimes committed nationally are not held centrally. However, data on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, by police force area, in England and Wales since 1997 can be viewed in the following table. This information is only held at a national level and cannot be broken down regionally.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
1997	166	110
1998	106	70
1999	125	70
2000	113	64
2001	140	96

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2002	104	64
2003	110	63
2004	135	96
2005	108	66
2006	190	130

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following Statutes:
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Deer Act 1991
Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997
Conservation of Seals Act 1970

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Written Questions: Government Responses

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 182354, on the National Identity Register, tabled by the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden on 24 January 2008. [193698]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* I replied to the right hon. Member on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 610W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Grants

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of the 3,000 business support schemes which the Government pledged in the 2006 Budget to reduce to 100 by 2010 have been closed down or amalgamated with other schemes. [199936]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are on track to deliver no more than 100 schemes by 2010 and close or amalgamate existing schemes as the new products are launched. We announced the timetable in March.

New, more effectively targeted, products will become available to business, starting this year. Business Link is gearing up to be the primary access channel to give business one main source of advice.

The new product portfolio will be available no later than March 2009 and will address business issues:

Export Credit Guarantee (March 2008), Skills Solutions for Business, Capital Investment Grants, Preparing to Export, Investigating New Overseas Markets, Getting The Most from Foreign Direct Investment (October 2008), Business Collaboration Networks, Shared Business Support Environments (November 2008), Debt Finance, Risk Capital, Finance Awareness and Capability (January 2009), Business Creation, Business Expertise for Growth, Promoting Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Waste Management, Protecting the Natural Environment, Local Community Business Coaching, Innovation Finance, and Innovation Collaborations (March 2009).

Coal

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to review coal policy with particular reference to *(a)* employment, *(b)* carbon dioxide emission reduction and *(c)* future energy demand; and if he will make a statement. [202132]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's Energy Policy is set out in the Energy White Paper "Meeting the Energy Challenge" published in 2007. There are no present plans to review this policy.

Construction

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many construction industry businesses there were in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [202456]

Malcolm Wicks: Estimates of the total number of construction businesses in the North East and UK are published by BERR. These data are shown in the following table, for each year that data are available from 1997 to 2006. Regional data are available for 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005. Data for 2007 will be published in July 2008.

Table 1: Total number of construction businesses, start of year calendar year

	North East	*UK*
1997	n/a	829,065
1998	21,215	728,705
1999	14,870	683,530
2000	n/a	678,515
2001	11,635	691,800
2002	n/a	733,610
2003	20,470	792,050
2004	n/a	862,515
2005	23,680	923,770
2006	n/a	920,780

Source:
Small and Medium Enterprise Statistics for the UK and Regions 1997 to 2006, available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/sme

The number of construction businesses in the UK rose by 91,715 (11 per cent.) between 1997 and 2006. The number of construction businesses in the North East rose by 2,465 (12 per cent.) between 1998 and 2005.

Below regional level the only data available are that on the number of VAT registered construction businesses, which are published by BERR. These data are shown in the following table for Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, the North East Government Office Region and the UK. Data for 2008 will be published in November 2008.

Table 2: VAT registered construction businesses, start of calendar year

	Jarrow constituency[1]	South Tyneside	North East	UK
1997	95	170	4,570	177,510
1998	95	170	4,585	180,410
1999	95	175	4,605	183,570
2000	95	175	4,675	186,240
2001	95	180	4,755	189,830
2002	105	190	4,835	194,155
2003	100	195	4,945	199,100
2004	100	200	5,235	206,580
2005	105	215	5,520	213,495
2006	115	240	5,795	221,330
2007	125	255	6,040	228,770

[1] Data for Jarrow Constituency come from special analysis of the Inter Departmental Business Register.

Source:

Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2006, available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 221,000 out of 921,000 UK construction enterprises (24 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 328W, on departmental ICT, what advice he has given to departmental staff on the protection and security of personal electronic devices issued to them by his Department. [198279]

Mr. Thomas: Personal electronic devices are only issued to users following mandated training, which covers use, protection and storage of the device.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198307]

Mr. Thomas: There have been no criminal offences created by primary legislation sponsored by this Department since July 2007.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service post and *(c)* posts filled by temporary and agency workers there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [199459]

Mr. Thomas: The Office for National Statistics publishes civil service employment statistics every quarter in the Public Sector Employment First Release. Table 6 of the publication provides a breakdown of employment by Government Department. It includes a breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual employees.

The latest statistics published are for Q4 (December) 2007. These can be viewed at:

CS_Employment_Qtr_4_2007.

Previous statistics are available going back to Q1 2006. These can be viewed at:

ONS Statistics

Prior to 2006 civil service employment numbers were available on only an annual basis.

Civil service statistics collected are the number of employees and not the number of posts. An employee covering multiple posts is counted only once and no information on vacancies is held.

The ONS does not publish statistics for non-civil service posts broken down by Government Department.

Information on employment agency workers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based. [200701]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is not directly responsible for a public sector pension scheme.

BERR's accounting officer has responsibility for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) Pension Scheme. The information for the UKAEA Pension Scheme is set out in the scheme's resource accounts.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91. [200702]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is not directly responsible for a public pension scheme.

BERR's accounting officer has responsibility for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) Pension Scheme. The information on liabilities in present value terms are in the UKAEA Pension Scheme's resource accounts (since 2000-01), although these are produced under differing sets of assumptions (e.g. on longevity), so are not comparable across years.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200703]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is not directly responsible for a public sector pension scheme.

BERR's accounting officer has responsibility for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) Pension Scheme. Information on rate and cost of employer contributions is contained in the UKAEA Pension Scheme's resource accounts (since 2000-01).

Departmental Responsibilities

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what role the relevant shareholder executive has in determining the definition of the public tasks of his Department's agencies. [203464]

Malcolm Wicks: The shareholder executive has no remit for determining the definition of the public tasks of the Department's agencies. However, working with appropriate stakeholders, the shareholder executive ensures that, for each of the businesses in its portfolio, wholly or partly owned by Government, there are clearly articulated objectives reflecting both commercial and non-commercial aims.

Energy: Fees and Charges

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps the Government are taking to assist pensioners and vulnerable adults with rising energy costs; [202028]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to work with energy companies to minimise the effects of rising fuel bills for low income families, pensioners and vulnerable adults; [202029]

(3) what steps the Government plan to take to minimise further rises in energy costs. [202030]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 30 April 2008]:* We are concerned about the impact of higher prices on vulnerable people and we continue to encourage energy suppliers to adopt initiatives to restrict price rises for the most vulnerable.

In Budget 2008, the Government said they would like to see the amount energy suppliers spend on social programmes increase to at least £150 million a year over the period ahead. A new voluntary agreement has recently been signed individually with the six major energy suppliers to treble their individual investment on social programmes in the next three years, reaching collective investment of £150 million by 2010-11. This will take spend to £100 million in 2008-09, £125 million in 2009-10 and £150 million in 2010-11.

In addition, winter fuel payments helped keep 11.7 million people warm in winter 2006-07 and Budget 2008 announced an additional one-off payment of £100 to over-80s households and £50 to over-60s households in 2008-09.

The Government do not interfere in commercial pricing decisions in the energy supply markets which are competitive markets. Ofgem's analysis suggests that recent energy price rises are due mainly to global demand for fossil fuels pushing up wholesale prices. The UK gas market is increasingly influenced by continental gas markets and the Government are supporting the European Commission's efforts to improve competition in those markets.

Increased gas storage can help to protect the UK gas market from price shocks. The Government are taking steps to improve and streamline the regulatory regimes for constructing gas storage facilities through the Planning and Energy Bills, now before Parliament.

Energy: Skilled Workers

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment the Government have made of current and future skills needs in the *(a)* nuclear waste industries and *(b)* energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. [202513]

Malcolm Wicks: The nuclear industry began a comprehensive review of its skills base in 2002. The Sector Skills Council Cogent became responsible for nuclear in 2004 and used the review to develop the sector skills agreement for the industry. The sector has also developed and launched a national Skills Academy for Nuclear, which will lead on training and skills development. The academy plans, on behalf of employers, to start learners on 1200 apprenticeships and 150 foundation degrees, while providing 4000 shorter courses to re-train existing staff over the next three years. It will also lead on delivery of the passport system to record skills and competencies. The needs for nuclear waste management are fully factored in to the academy's and employers' plans.

Energy efficiency and renewables are mostly emerging technologies and it is hard to predict the exact timing of deployment. This makes it challenging to plan for skills delivery and, clearly, the production or large numbers of skilled people ahead of or behind demand for their services would be unhelpful. Employers and Sector Skills Councils are in early discussions about skills strategies (possibly leading to Skills Academies) for waste and environmental services, which would cover microgeneration and waste-to-energy, while the wind industry has just started discussions of its own. On the wider front, energy skills are largely generic and transferable, so people trained in the more developed skills programmes (nuclear, process and oil and gas) could provide a resource for renewable energy in the future.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what arrangements his Department has in place to monitor the extent to which support for carbon-intensive projects provided by the Export Credits Guarantee Department is consistent with Government policy on climate change. [200335]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD's Statement of Business Principles, published in 2000, includes the commitment that ECGD:

> "will ensure [its] activities take into account the Government's international policies, including those on sustainable development, environment, human rights, good governance and trade".

The implementation of the Statement of Business Principles in relation to environmental issues is described further in ECGD's Case Impact Analysis Process (CIAP), which is published on the ECGD website:

http://www.ecgd.gov.uk/ecgd_case_impact_analysis_process_-_may_2004-4.pdf

Fuel Poverty

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1447W, on fuel poverty, when he expects *(a)* fuel poverty figures for 2006 and *(b)* updated regional fuel poverty figures to be published. [202375]

Malcolm Wicks: Fuel poverty figures for 2006 will be available in the sixth annual fuel poverty strategy progress report later this year. Data used to estimate numbers of fuel poor households are derived from the annual English House Conditions Survey (EHCS). Regional figures (at Government office region level) will be published in an annex of detailed tables accompanying the 2006 report.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much and what proportion of the total administrative cost of the coal health compensation schemes had been spent on *(a)* contractors and *(b)* external legal advice as at 31 March 2008. [202714]

Malcolm Wicks: With respect to Coal Health Compensation schemes, the Department's administrative costs are broken down as follows as at 31 March 2008:

Contractors	*Costs (£ million)*	*Proportion (%)*
Departments Claims Handlers	450	74.7
Records Management	69	11.5
Consultants	32	5.3
Website	4.5	0.7
Other (Technical and special projects)	3	0.5
Department's legal costs	44	7.3
Total	602.5	100

Other costs with respect to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Vibration White Finger (VWF) that are not part of the Department's administrative costs are shown in the following table as at 31 March 2008. These are cost that would normally be borne by the plaintiffs but which, for these schemes, the Department has agreed to meet.

	£ million	
	COPD	*VWF*
Claimants' representatives	994	179
Medical	398	34

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average settlement has been for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger claims for the 20 solicitors firms who have submitted the greatest number of claims under the Coalminers' Compensation Scheme. [202746]

Malcolm Wicks: The average settlement for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Vibration White Finger (VWF) by the 20 claimants' representatives who have submitted the greatest number of claims is shown in the tables as at 20 April 2008:

Average claims for COPD

Claimants' representatives	*Total claims*	*Total claims settled by payment*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Beresfords Solicitors	80,820	58,393	2,468
Thompsons Solicitors	57,963	43,646	9,182
Hugh James	56,814	39,700	7,275
Raleys Solicitors	48,893	33,749	5,935
Browell Smith and Co.	32,983	23,304	6,436
Avalon Solicitors	32,415	18,537	2,190
Mark Gilbert Morse	25,727	19,635	7,388
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	16,587	13,617	3,116
Barber and Co.	14,092	11,084	2,720
Watson Burton LLP	14,073	12,227	4,345
Graysons Solicitors	12,968	11,233	4,489
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	10,201	6,847	3,054
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	9,849	7,436	5,680
Delta Legal	9,424	6,635	2,164
TLW Solicitors	8,098	6,734	3,154
Moss Solicitors	7,943	6,083	4,115
Ingrams Solicitors	7,926	5,920	3,493
Birchall Blackburn	7,652	3,851	2,639
Corries Solicitors	7,491	4,559	3,241
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	6,786	4,599	9,928

Average claims for VWF

Claimants' representatives	*Total claims*	*Total claims settled by payment*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Thompsons Solicitors	21,074	16,303	16,217
Browell Smith and Co.	16,463	11,689	10,644
Beresfords Solicitors	11,620	7,194	10,325
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	11,523	9,896	10,555
Raleys Solicitors	11,279	9,675	12,014
Hugh James	10,638	8,422	11,170
Graysons Solicitors	8,700	7,064	15,448
Moss Solicitors	7,397	4,984	10,411
Watson Burton LLP	5,935	4,941	16,978
Towells Solicitors	5,361	4,157	12,376
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	5,276	3,321	9,306
Kidd & Spoor Harper Solicitors	3,667	3,000	14,135
Atteys	3,358	2,934	14,445
O. H. Parsons and Partners Solicitors	2,702	2,203	10,985

Average claims for VWF

Claimants' representatives	*Total claims*	*Total claims settled by payment*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	2,364	1,978	14,078
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	2,267	1,992	17,973
Saffmans Solicitors	2,234	1,958	11,689
Kingslegal	1,884	1,573	8,428
Latham and Co. Solicitors	1,844	1,521	15,132
Corries Solicitors	1,677	1,175	22,330

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* contractors and *(b)* external law firms his Department has used in connection with the administration of the coal health compensation schemes. [202747]

Malcolm Wicks: With respect to the coal health compensation schemes, the Department's contractors and laws firms are shown in the following table.

	Role
Name of contractor	
Healthcall (up to 2002)	Medical assessment for COPD and VWF for General Damages
Atos Origin (previously known as SEMA)	Medical assessment contractor for COPD and VWF for General Damages
Capita Healthcare Solutions	Medical assessment for VWF services
Capita Insurance Services (previously known as AON)	Claims handling contractor
RPS Business Healthcare	Medical records
Iron Mountain (previously known as Hays)	Records management contractor
Consultant from PWC	Audit and compliance consultancy
Consultant from Deloitte	Operational advice
Web Technology Group (previously Cable and Wireless)	Hosting, development and delivery of coalclaims.com website
Law firms	
Nabarro	Legal advice England and Wales
McLure Naismith	Legal advice Scotland

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* law firms and *(b)* claims companies have submitted claims under the Coalminers' Compensation Scheme. [202749]

Malcolm Wicks: With respect to coal health compensation schemes, the Department has received claims from 787 law firms and two claims companies for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in Warrington, North constituency have had coal health claims settled since the scheme was introduced; and how much has been paid out to them. [203151]

Malcolm Wicks: Since the coal health compensation schemes were introduced the following number of claims have been registered and settled in the Warrington, North constituency for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger (VWF) as at 31 March 2008:

COPD

Total claims registered: 294

Total settlements (all categories): 259

Total damages: £901,550

VWF

Total claims registered: 62

Total settlements (all categories): 60

Total damages: £654,027

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many grant awards have been made under the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings programme in each month since its inception. [199374]

Malcolm Wicks: Grant awards made each month under the domestic funding stream of the Low Carbon Buildings programme since its inception are shown in the following table:

Month	*Number of grant awards*
May 2006	389
June 2006	161
July 2006	509
August 2006	512
September 2006	402
October 2006	1078
November 2006	1051
December 2006	346
January 2007	266
February 2007	199
March 2007	191
April 2007	—
May 2007	299
June 2007	290
July 2007	240
August 2007	201
September 2007	213
October 2007	193
November 2007	196
December 2007	118
January 2008	234
February 2008	181
March 2008	174

There has been a decline in the number of grant awards being issued since the changes made at the re-launch of the household stream in May 2007, when amongst other measures, a pre-requisite to seek planning permission prior to applying for a grant was introduced to reduce the number of speculative applications being received. However the quality of applications being received to the programme is much improved with fewer offers being withdrawn or expiring now than at any time during the life of the programme.

More recently we have announced that the household funding stream will remain open to new applicants until the funds are exhausted or to June 2010, whichever comes sooner. With the £2,500 cap per household, we believe this provides a simple and fair way of allocating funds to householders across all technologies and to increase the number of installations, which is an important aim for this demonstration programme. We believe with the extension, we will see increased take up, supported by easing of planning requirements implemented in April.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether trustees appointed to oversee the implementation of a funding arrangement plan for the approved funded decommissioning programme for a new nuclear plant will be eligible to become a trustee for another nuclear plant decommissioning fund. [202077]

Malcolm Wicks: The "Consultation on Funded Decommissioning Programme Guidance for New Nuclear Power Stations" document, published on 22 February 2008, states that the Secretary of State will wish to be satisfied that suitable arrangements are in place for the governance of a fund. The governance arrangements will depend on the fund structure adopted and such arrangements should be set out in the Funding Arrangement Plans submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

Oil

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's estimate is on when global oil production will peak; and what information has been used to arrive at that estimate. [203516]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government do not estimate the timing of peak in global oil production. However, it is our assessment that the global oil reserves are sufficient to prevent total global oil production peaking in the foreseeable future provided sufficient investment in both upstream and downstream is forthcoming in order for production to keep pace with the growing global oil demand. This is consistent with the assessment made by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its 2007 World Energy Outlook (WEO).

Public Houses

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the financial viability of public houses. [202446]

Mr. Thomas: My Department has made no such assessment.

Public Houses: Closures

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission research to determine whether there is a relationship between tied lease agreements and the number of *(a)* pub closures and *(b)* landlord bankruptcies; and if he will make a statement. [202924]

Mr. Thomas: The Insolvency Service has a limited budget available for research and evaluation, working co-operatively with stakeholders and other parts of Government. It regularly reviews the priority areas for research funding and at present the relationship between tied lease agreements and pub closures/ landlord bankruptcies is not an area targeted for research.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the reasons for the level of applications for the UK Export Credits Guarantee Department's £50 million credit line for renewable energy projects; what steps he is taking to encourage more applications; and if he will make a statement. [202011]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD's renewable energy initiative has generated a number of approaches since its introduction in 2003, though there has been no take up of ECGD cover so far. The main reason would appear to be that most opportunities to date for exporters in the emerging UK renewable energy sector have arisen in OECD markets where ECGD cover is not generally required.

ECGD officials continue to work alongside colleagues in BERR, UKTI and relevant trade associations to promote awareness of the ECGD cover availability. As a result of contact with the British Wind Energy Association, ECGD is currently following up approaches for potential wind turbine exports with a combined value of up to £10 million.

Shares: Sales Methods

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the role of Companies House is in combating illegal share sale boiler room operations. [203628]

Mr. Thomas: Companies House fulfils the following functions under company law:

The incorporation, dissolution and restoration of limited companies.

The maintenance of a register of information filed by companies under the Companies Acts and related legislation, which it makes available for public inspection.

This means that information from the companies register is available to law enforcement agencies, with whom Companies House has a working relationship.

Companies House does not have a role in regulating sales of shares or in pursuing people who may have committed financial crime.

Small Businesses: Beer

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department makes available to micro-breweries, with specific reference to *(a)* new businesses and *(b)* social enterprises. [201253]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform does not have any specific measures to address the needs of micro-breweries. However, Business Link has been created to act as the primary channel for all businesses providing them with access to the help and support they need to start and develop their business. The service provides business with information, helps diagnose their needs and then identifies and connects them to appropriate public and private sector solutions.

Businesses can access the service in a number of ways. The national website http://wwvv.businesslink.gov.uk, provides a wealth of information and tools designed for all types of business. This is supported by a network of advisers across England managed by the Regional Development Agencies but delivered locally. Advisers offer a mix of "light touch" and in-depth support services tailored to meet the specific needs of individual businesses. Access to these face-to-face services can be obtained by calling the national helpline on 0845 6009006.

Responsibility for Social Enterprises now rests with the Office of the Third Sector (OTS). Officials in BERR, OTS and the Regional Development Agencies are working together to ensure organisations delivering Business Link services are aware of the needs of Social Enterprises and can identify suitable solutions specifically designed to meet their needs.

In addition, on 12 March, Government published a renewed enterprise strategy which aims to make the UK the most enterprising economy in the world and the best place to start and grow a business. The strategy contains a number of measures to help small businesses, such as micro-breweries, to grow. These include measures to reduce regulatory burdens, for example by considering exempting small firms from new regulations, and measures to help businesses to access the finance they need to grow, for example the strengthening of the small firms loan guarantee scheme, which is available to businesses regardless of sector. The strategy is available at

www.berr.gov.uk/enterprisestrategy.

Sustainable Development: Education

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what reports he has received of the Centre for Alternative Technology's Wales Institute for Sustainable Education initiative; and if he will make a statement. [201295]

Malcolm Wicks: To the best of our knowledge no reports are listed, following checks on our electronic management record and correspondence systems, as being received by the Secretary of State or other Ministers on the Centre for Alternative Technology's Wales Institute for Sustainable Education initiative.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will provide £1.2 million of funding to the Centre for Alternative Technology to support completion of the Wales Institute for Sustainable Education; and if he will make a statement. [201296]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1976W.

Veterinary Services: Prescriptions

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to extend the prohibition on veterinary surgeons charging for prescriptions when it expires in October 2008. [202765]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) will be monitoring developments closely once the three year prohibition on prescription charges for veterinary medicines end in October 2008. It is a matter for the OFT to consider whether any farther regulatory action may be needed to ensure effective competition in this market.

World Trade Organisation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on progress of the Doha round of talks at the World Trade Organisation. [203031]

Mr. Thomas: Negotiations are continuing among World Trade Organisation members in Geneva. The WTO is expected to issue revised negotiating texts on agriculture, non agricultural market access (NAMA) and services in May. This may enable Pascal Lamy, Director General of the WTO, to hold a ministerial meeting to reach agreement on agriculture and NAMA that could pave the way to signing an overall Doha deal by the end of this year.

The Government are working with the EU Trade Commissioner, other EU member states and other WTO members to achieve an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha Round before the end of 2008.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 7 May 2008

PRIME MINISTER

Engagements

14. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will visit the UK Human Trafficking Centre in Sheffield to discuss trends in human trafficking into the UK from other EU member states. [203752]

The Prime Minister: The Government deplore all forms of human trafficking. The UK has led the way on human trafficking: the EU plan on preventing and combating trafficking in persons was adopted during the UK presidency in 2005; and, the UK and Poland are leading a project with a number of EU partners to undertake more practical co-operation on human trafficking.

The UK's action plan "Tacking Human Trafficking", published in March 2007, sets out the Government's strategy. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204389]

The Prime Minister: A list of my UK visits will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

Speeches

Greg Clark: To ask the Prime Minister who his Office has employed as a speechwriter since he took up office as Prime Minister. [203890]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 625W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Community Assets Programme

8. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress has been made on the community assets programme; and if he will make a statement. [203762]

Phil Hope: The £30 million Community Assets programme is making excellent progress. Last month it announced 37 in-principle awards to refurbish assets that will be transferred to third sector ownership. The projects are imaginative and varied: from inner-city spaces offering alternative education for young people to cutting edge theatre and art, and health and keep-fit services.

Charities and Community Groups

9. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to reduce the burden of administration on charities and community groups. [203763]

Phil Hope: The Government are tackling administrative burdens affecting the third sector in a number of ways. For example the Charities Act 2006 includes a range of de-regulatory measures that particularly help the smallest charities, and the Charity Commission has introduced a simplified annual return form which is already benefiting 65,000 charities.

Social Enterprise

10. **Ms Butler:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to promote social enterprise amongst young people. [203764]

Edward Miliband: The Government are committed to promoting social enterprise among young people as part of the 2006 Social Enterprise Action Plan and the 2007 Third Sector Review. Programmes with a focus on young people include the Social Enterprise Ambassadors programme, raising the profile of social enterprise, and embedding social enterprise in the school curriculum, such as GCSE Business Studies.

Social Change

11. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance he provides to the third sector on campaigning for social change; and if he will make a statement. [203765]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Slough (Fiona MacTaggart).

14. **Paul Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Government's policy is on third sector organisations which campaign for social change. [203768]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart).

Social Inclusion

12. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent steps he has taken to promote social inclusion in rural areas. [203766]

Phil Hope: The Socially Excluded Adults Public Service Agreement and the Families at Risk Review will help to promote social inclusion in rural areas. They will support the Government's wider work on building strong rural communities and ensuring that public services meet the needs of the most vulnerable

rural residents. The Government are providing over £50 million a year to support rural bus services, are ensuring that 95 per cent. of the rural population are within three miles of a Post Office, and have committed to deliver over 10,000 affordable homes in settlements of less than 3,000 inhabitants by 2011.

Hospitality: Senior Civil Servants

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment he has made of compliance with the civil service management code's rules on the registration of hospitality received by senior civil servants. [203767]

Edward Miliband: The rules on the registration of hospitality are set out in the "Civil Service Management Code". The Government are committed to publishing, for the first time, an annual list of hospitality received during 2007 by members of departmental boards. The information is currently being compiled, and it will be published shortly.

Conditions of Employment

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress has been made in removing the two-tier workforce. [203754]

Phil Hope: In 2005 the Government introduced a Code of Practice on Workforce Matters designed to prevent the development of a two tier workforce in public services. The code's implementation is currently being reviewed as part of the work programme of the Public Services Forum. The code also explicitly encourages employees and trade unions to alert Government to any problems with its implementation.

Departmental Press

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what weekly publications the Prime Minister's office subscribes to or purchases each week; and at what cost. [203891]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 530W.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Noise

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when the Government adopted the 57dBLeq contour as the threshold for problematic aircraft noise; [194002]

(2) if she will review the effectiveness of the 57dBLeq contour as a threshold for problematic transport-related noise. [194003]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In September 1990 the Department for Transport announced the replacement of the noise and number index (NNI) with Leq (16 hour) dBA as the daytime index for aircraft noise. 57 dBA Leq (measured over 07.00-23.00 period) was adopted as representing the onset of annoyance, although the Government acknowledged that there can be no absolute measure of disturbance from aircraft noise given the variation in individual reactions.

This decision followed publication of the report "United Kingdom Aircraft Noise Index Study" (ANIS) in 1985 and subsequent consultation on its findings.

In 2001 the Department commissioned the "Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources" (ANASE) study to update the ANIS research. The conclusions of this study (which were announced by the Secretary of State on 2 November 2007) indicated that whilst it is highly probable that annoyance with a particular level of aircraft noise is higher than found in the ANIS study, it showed no evidence of a particular threshold at which it becomes a serious problem.

However, in terms of making quantitative comparisons between the results from ANASE and the earlier ANIS study, expert peer reviewers of the ANASE study advised that "reliance on the detailed outcome of ANASE would be misplaced" and that they would "counsel against using the detailed results and conclusions from ANASE in the development of government policy".

Although the report does not provide evidence for replacing the figure of 57 dBA Leq (16 hours) with a lower or higher figure, we believe it is right to retain this figure as a safeguard for those who are most affected by aircraft noise. In the "Future of Air Transport" White Paper the Government gave a commitment that further development of Heathrow could only be considered if it resulted in no net increase in the total area of the 57 Leq dBA noise contour compared with summer 2002, an area of 127 sq km. That commitment stands and the ability to meet it is a key consideration, in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation.

Additionally, as we announced when the ANASE study was released, pending the availability of a better alternative we will apply existing valuation for road and rail noise when assessing the economic impact of noise in the cost- benefit analysis of future aviation projects. We have taken this approach in the case of "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation.

The Department is taking forward work to follow up the ANASE findings with the Aircraft Noise Monitoring Advisory Committee (ANMAC), whose role is to advise the Department on policy relating to aircraft noise at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

The significance of the 57 dBA (16 hours) contour—as representing the onset of annoyance—specifically relates to aircraft noise. Noise annoyance criteria from other transport sources will reflect research, as appropriate, specific to those modes.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether training flight movements are included in data collected on air traffic management movements and consequential noise at UK airports. [200671]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Civil Aviation Authority collects statistics on air transport movements at the larger UK airports and these are published on their website. The published statistics include a table:

(http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/80/airport_data/2007Annual/Table_03_1_Aircraft_Movements_2007.csv)

listing non-commercial movements amongst which are test and training flights.

The CAA also produces annual noise contours maps for the three London designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted). However similar maps for other airports are not produced.

Biofuels: Asthma

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effects on incidence and severity of asthma of increased use of biofuels. [202837]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1432W.

Dartford Tunnel: Tolls

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors she took into account in deciding the level of discount to local residents for Dartford Crossing tolls. [203572]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Final decisions have not yet been taken on discounts from Dartford Crossing charges for local residents. Our proposals are currently out to consultation, and the rationale for our proposals is described in the consultation document.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role her Department has in setting toll charges for *(a)* the Mersey Tunnel and *(b)* the Dartford Crossing. [203574]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Mersey Tunnels are not directly a matter for central Government. The Mersey Tunnels Act allows Merseytravel to increase tolls based on a Retail Price Index formula. Charges at Dartford are established by Order of the Secretary of State in exercise of powers conferred by the Transport Act 2000.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2533-34W, on departmental ICT, how many of the missing or stolen *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by her Department; and at what cost. [202439]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cost for the replacement of the laptop computers, mobile telephones and personal digital assistants reported as lost, missing or stolen since 2002, as referred to in the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2533-34W, was:

£79,370 for lost, missing or stolen laptops;

£2,852 for lost, missing or stolen mobile telephones; and

£4,918 for lost, missing or stolen personal digital assistants.

For the purposes of this reply, it is assumed that all lost, missing and stolen mobile devices were replaced by the Department for Transport. Complete records of whether any single lost or stolen item was actually replaced are not available. Where accurate replacement costs are not available, the replacement costs for these items have been estimated.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to require the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) to release information to companies making manual requests only if such companies are members of a DVLA-accredited trade association. [203951]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requirement for private car parking companies who submit requests for vehicle keeper information via electronic channels to be a member of an Accredited Trade Association (ATA) was introduced following public consultation in 2006. The British Parking Association is the only existing ATA for the parking industry. Following the consultation, it was not considered necessary to extend this requirement to those who apply via the manual, paper-based channels due to the fact that each application is considered individually and additional to the evidence that must be provided.

The DVLA will shortly be undertaking a review of all the new measures introduced in 2006. This review will consider the effectiveness of the current requirements, and all other options available.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many requests for information in respect of the registered keeper of a vehicle were made to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) in the last month for which figures are available; how many of those were received by *(a)* electronic and *(b)* manual requests from (i) DVLA-accredited trade associations, (ii) non-DVLA-accredited car park operators, (iii) individuals and (iv) others; and how many in each category were (A) accepted and (B) refused. [203952]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Regulation 27 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002 provides for the release of information from the DVLA's vehicle register to the police, to local authorities for investigation of an offence or a decriminalised parking contravention, and to anyone who can demonstrate 'reasonable cause' for having the information made available to them.

The requirement for unregulated companies who submit requests for vehicle keeper information via electronic channels to be a member of an Accredited Trade Association (ATA) was introduced following public consultation in 2006.

Following the consultation, it was not considered necessary to extend this requirement to those who apply via the manual, paper-based channels due to the fact that each application is considered individually and additional to the evidence that must be provided.

The latest figures available for requests for information processed by the DVLA under the 'reasonable cause' provisions are for March 2008.

During March, 100,828 requests were received and responded to electronically. During the same month, 24,106 manual requests for information were received and processed and an additional 2,659 were refused.

The aforementioned figures show 'all' requests for vehicle keeper details under the 'reasonable cause' provisions. These include requests from insurance and finance companies, private car park enforcement companies, members of the public and solicitors, etc., for keeper details at a specific date of event. It also contains requests where the current keeper requires the full history of his vehicle and from mileage companies for investigations into vehicle 'clocking'.

DVLA does not keep separate figures for each category of requests, so it is not possible to advise how many requests were made by individuals, members of DVLA Accredited Trade Associations (ATA), non-DVLA accredited car park enforcement companies, or others.

It is possible to confirm, however, that all electronic requests would have been made either by companies with a statutory regulator or members of an ATA.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how risks 2.1, 4.1, 6.2, 7, 5.1, 1.1 and 4.3 referred to in Item 3: Risks section of the Heathrow Project Board Meeting Note of 17 October 2006 are titled; and if she will make a statement; [201249]

(2) how risks 3.3, 4.3, 1.1 and 1.3 referred to in Item 4: Risks section of the Heathrow Project Board Meeting Note of 12 September 2006 are titled; and if she will make a statement; [201250]

(3) how risks 2.2 and 2.4 discussed in Item 3: Risks section of the Heathrow Project Board Meeting Note of 10 August 2006 are titled; and if she will make a statement; [201251]

(4) how risks 3.2, 4.2, 3.4 and 6.4 discussed in Item 3: Risks section of the Heathrow Project Board Meeting Note of 10 July 2006 are titled; and if she will make a statement; [201252]

(5) how risks 1.1.3, 1.1.5, 1.3.2, 2.1.4, 2.1.1, 1.1.6, 1.3.7, 2.1.6 and 2.1.7 discussed in Item 3: Risks section of the Heathrow Project Board Meeting Note of 17 July 2007 are titled; and if she will make a statement; [201278]

(6) how risks 1.3.4, 1.4.1, 1.6.1 and 2.1.3, discussed in Item 3: Risks section of the Heathrow Project Board Meeting Note of 22 June 2007 are titled; and if she will make a statement; [201279]

(7) how risks 1.2.1, 1.3.5, 2.1.5, 2.2.8, 1.3.1 and 2.2.11 discussed in Item 3: Risks section of the Heathrow Project Board Meeting Note of 18 May 2007 are titled; and if she will make a statement; [201280]

(8) how risks 1.3.6 and 2.1.2 discussed in Item 3: Risks section of the Heathrow Project Board Meeting Note of 16 April 2007 are titled; and if she will make a statement; [201281]

(9) how risks 1.6.3 and 3.3.7 discussed in Item 3: Risks section of the Heathrow Project Board Meeting Note of 20 February 2007 are titled; and if she will make a statement. [201282]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Risk registers are a routine feature of programme and project management and are used widely within the Department for Transport (DfT) to help ensure that potentially relevant issues are anticipated and addressed. The Heathrow Project Board regularly reviewed risks as part of the process leading to the recent Heathrow consultation, and the information requested is listed as follows, by date of meeting, risk number and descriptor:

10 July 2006:

3.2—loss of housing in Sipson;

4.2—AirTrack and Crossrail funding;

3.4—direct action by opponents;

6.4—communications planning.

10 August 2006:

2.2—treatment of air quality 'hot spots';

2.4—nitrogen dioxide exceedences.

12 September 2006:

3.3—opposition of residents;

4.3—meeting air quality targets;

1.1/1.3—airspace design for mixed mode and runway three operations.

17 October 2006:

2.1—mitigation measures to achieve air quality limits;

4.1—road congestion around Heathrow;

6.2—three runway airport operating measures;

7—adapting the ADMS air quality model;

5.1—price increases required to support additional capacity;

1.1—airspace design for mixed mode operations;

4.3—possible mitigation measures to achieve air quality compliance.

20 February 2007:

1.6.3—modelling air quality compliant scenario;

3.3.7—non-delivery of mixed mode.

16 April 2007:

1.3.6—Strategic Road Network air quality exceedences;

2.1.2—loss of housing in Sipson.

18 May 2007:

1.2.1—possible mitigation measures to achieve air quality targets;

1.3.5—road traffic modelling;

2.1.5—public consultation handling;

2.2.8—analysis of consultation responses;

1.3.1—road congestion around Heathrow;

2.2.11—ANASE study.

22 June 2007:

1.3.4—surface access modelling;

1.4.1—noise modelling;

1.6.1—BAA and DfT scheduling forecasts;

2.1.3—opposition of residents.

17 July 2007:

1.1.3—airport operations with a third runway;

1.1.5—interaction with Northolt airport;

1.3.2—possible mitigation measures to achieve air quality compliance;

2.1.4—direct action by opponents;

2.1.1—relationship between White Paper, London Plan and local development framework;

1.1.6—NATS Terminal Control North airspace change;

1.3.7—accommodating increase in surface access trips;

2.1.6—regulatory impact assessment information;
2.1.7—resources for regulatory impact assessment.

M20: Noise

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1445W, on M20: noise, how many sites identified as being a high priority for resurfacing have been resurfaced in each of the last five years; and how many her Department plans to resurface in each of the next five years. [203881]

Mr. Tom Harris: The resurfacing of the high priority sites commenced in financial year 2004-05. The number of high priority sites which have been resurfaced in each financial year to 2007-08 is:

	Number
2004-05	2
2005-06	4
2006-07	3
2007-08	3

No information is available for the planned resurfacing of the remaining high priority sites by individual financial years. However, four sites are currently planned to be resurfaced before the end of financial year 2010-11. The remaining 10 sites are planned to be resurfaced after 2010-11.

Mersey Tunnel: Tolls

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on providing a discount for Mersey Tunnel tolls for local residents. [203573]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport is not aware of any representations relating to discounts for local residents for use of the Mersey Tunnels.

Passengers: Borders

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of the projected number of passenger movements across UK borders in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [203943]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

However, the Department for Transport's latest forecasts of air passenger demand at UK airports are reported in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts" (November 2007), available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

Railways: Postal Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the merits of reopening the MailRail postal transport system under central London for mail or other purposes. [203954]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has not carried out any assessment into the merits of reopening the Post Office Underground Railway system. Decisions on the future of the system are a commercial matter for the Royal Mail.

Railways: Sales

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of dismantled railway track bed have been sold by the British Railways Property Board since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [202921]

Mr. Tom Harris: BRB (Residuary) does not record the length of trackbed that it disposes of. However, since 2001, the number of sites containing trackbed that have been sold is limited as most disused railway lines that were owned by the British Railways Board had been disposed of by then.

Railways: Watford

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers used the Watford-Gatwick service operated by Southern in each year since the service began; what the Government's plans are for the service; and if she will make a statement. [199349]

Mr. Tom Harris: A survey carried out during 2007 showed that some 8500 passengers per day use the Watford-Gatwick service, of whom fewer than 30 per cent. were making journeys from one side of Clapham Junction to the other, and fewer than 3 per cent. were making journeys to and from Gatwick airport.

I understand that Southern (the train operator) intend to make an announcement about plans for this service shortly.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure that fuel counting towards the renewable transport fuel obligation is sourced only from sustainable and local supply chains; and if she will take steps against those producers, wholesalers and retailers which do not meet these requirements. [203637]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), which came into effect on 15 April, transport fuel suppliers are required to report on the sustainability of any biofuels in respect of which they wish to earn renewable transport fuel certificates. Details of the reporting requirements are available via the Renewable Fuels Agency's website at http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa.

The Government have set various targets to encourage transport fuel suppliers to source sustainable, low carbon biofuels. The Renewable Fuels Agency will report regularly on the performance of different transport fuel suppliers against these targets.

In parallel, the Government are pressing for EU-wide mandatory sustainability standards for all biofuels: these could be in place by April 2010.

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* plans to commission on enabling technologies for road pricing schemes; and what timetable is planned for such research in each case. [199522]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have invited the private sector to demonstrate how they might run a system of charging for road use according to time of day and route chosen. On 12 March we issued, to eight pre-qualified bidders, the first invitation to tender in this two-year demonstrations project, for the framework for road user service providers. We expect that this framework agreement will be established during June 2008, with the first trials involving volunteers getting underway this autumn.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how her Department takes into account the average income of local residents when deciding on the level of tolls for river road crossings and tunnels for which it is responsible. [203582]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The only charging regime for which the Department for Transport is responsible is the scheme for the Dartford Crossing. Income of local residents is not specifically taken into account in setting charges.

Roundabouts

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will issue guidance on providing pedestrian crossings at roundabouts that at night can be decoupled from the traffic lights that control their operation to increase traffic flow and reduce noise at such junctions at night. [203700]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The type of crossing and use of traffic lights depends on the type of roundabout and its location. The local highway authority is responsible for deciding the most appropriate type of crossing and junction control.

Department for Transport advice on pedestrian crossings is given in two Local Transport Notes, LTN 1/95 The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings and LTN 2/95 The Design of Pedestrian Crossings. LTN 2/95 provides advice on pedestrian crossings on the approaches to roundabouts and at traffic light controlled junctions. This advice includes the need to consider linking crossings with other nearby traffic lights to co-ordinate when the lights change and ease traffic flow.

The Department has commissioned research to examine options for traffic lights at roundabouts. We will consider the need for further guidance when that research is complete.

Traffic Management Act 2004

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to issue guidance to local authorities in respect of the issuing of fixed penalty notices under the Traffic Management Act 2004. [201263]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Traffic Management Act 2004 amends the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 to allow the use of fixed penalties for certain offences, as an alternative to prosecution in the magistrates court. The "Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Street Works and Works for Road Purposes and Related Matters" which was released in July 2007 and re-issued in the 31 March 2008, included a chapter on fixed penalties.

WALES

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what council tax band amendments in Wales were made subsequent to the 2005 council tax revaluation; and how many homes were moved into a higher band after the revaluation came into effect. [202920]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204096]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has offset its carbon emissions for the last two years.

The costs, to the Wales Office, of offsets were:

April 2007—£4307.80

March 2008—£747.20.

On both occasions the carbon offsetting was through "PURE the clean planet Trust".

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which animal disease preventative measures the Government plans to include in cost-sharing arrangements with farmers. [203488]

Jonathan Shaw: A consultation on responsibility and cost sharing for animal health and welfare closed on 15 April. Responses to that consultation will inform a further public consultation on specific proposals later this autumn.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on a UK-wide animal health and welfare strategy. [203487]

Jonathan Shaw: An Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Britain was launched in 2004. Northern Ireland has

a similar strategy and is currently consulting on a draft all-island strategy. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has appointed an advisory body, the England Implementation Group, to oversee delivery of the strategy in England. This group maintains links with its Scottish and Welsh counterparts to review British wide strategy implementation issues.

Badgers

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cage traps for catching badgers his Department holds in store. [203082]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not hold in storage any cage traps for catching badgers. The traps that were used during the randomised badger culling trial have been disposed of.

The Central Science Laboratory (an agency of DEFRA) holds over 600 badger cage traps which are being used as part of DEFRA-funded research.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated badger population was in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [203083]

Joan Ruddock: Surveys of badger populations in Great Britain were undertaken in the mid-1980s and mid-1990s. In the mid-1980s the badger population was estimated to be 250,000 and in the mid-1990s a survey estimated the population had increased by 77 per cent.

DEFRA is not aware of any national surveys which have attempted to estimate badger populations in England and Wales.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he has received on the potential effectiveness of a tuberculosis vaccine for badgers if given to an already infected animal. [203084]

Jonathan Shaw: Vaccination evokes an immune response to prevent an uninfected animal from contracting the disease. The effect of Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccination on already TB-infected badgers is unknown, but work is under way to determine this. It may have no effect, may delay or reduce excretion of TB bacilli, but is not expected to have any adverse effect.

Ecologists have advised that the turnover in a badger population is 30 per cent. per annum and modelling has shown that in a relatively short timescale there would be a mostly naïve uninfected population in which vaccine would become more effective.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information *(a)* is held by and *(b)* has been provided to each Divisional Veterinary Officer on the relocation of badgers from urban and suburban areas to rural areas. [203085]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Biofuels: Environment Protection

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department is undertaking on the environmental impact of biofuels. [202824]

Mr. Woolas: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) includes a reporting mechanism under which any transport fuel supplier wishing to claim a certificate in respect of any biofuel must submit a report detailing its environmental impacts. These reports will enable the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) to report regularly on the progress that is being made towards meeting targets under the obligation, as well as on the carbon savings and sustainability impacts of the policy.

In response to Government concern about the indirect impacts of biofuel cultivation, the chairman of the Renewable Fuels Agency is leading a study commissioned by the Department for Transport (the Gallagher Review) which is looking at effects of biofuels on land use change and the consequences for greenhouse gas savings. It is also examining the effects on international food prices and food security. The results of the review will inform the development of future UK biofuel policies and targets, including proposed EU targets for future biofuel consumption.

Birds: Conservation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' plans for sites of special scientific interest land in Castle Point constituency; and if he will make a statement. [203665]

Joan Ruddock: Natural England is DEFRA's delivery body for sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and it has received no proposals from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in relation to plans for SSSIs in Castle Point.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are used to ensure that imported exotic livestock which are susceptible to or may be infected with bluetongue disease are kept in an insect-free environment for the duration of their quarantine. [203079]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK fully implements EU legislation with respect to imports of exotic ruminant animals from outside the EU. These rules take into account the full range of disease risks and are consequently very restrictive. In practice, such imports rarely occur so the question of quarantine does not arise.

Movements of exotic ruminants within the EU are subject to the same rules as those for farm livestock. There are a number of options based on combinations of protection from insect vector attack, blood testing and vaccination, all of which are carried out before departure and certified by the official veterinary

services of the exporting country. These rules are kept under constant review in the light of experience and emerging science.

Once animals have arrived in the UK, they are restricted to the premises of destination and tested for bluetongue within two days of arrival. In exotic species, testing is carried out on the basis of a risk assessment.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with manufacturers of Bt8 vaccine other than Intervet on supplying the UK market. [203080]

Jonathan Shaw: Since the Government decided to place an order with Intervet for 22.5 million doses of BTV-8 vaccine following a tender issued last year, DEFRA officials have met representatives from Merial and Fort Dodge to give them feedback on the tender process.

We are considering with the farming industry how best to secure future supplies of vaccine and will keep our options under review in the coming weeks.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) from which individuals and organisations his Department has sought advice on modifications to the table valuation system for compensation for cattle culled as a result of bovine tuberculosis in the last 12 months; [203451]

(2) what options for modifications to the table valuation system for compensation for cattle culled as a result of bovine tuberculosis he has considered; [203452]

(3) when he expects to make modifications to the table valuation system for compensation for cattle culled as a result of bovine tuberculosis. [203453]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government recognise that the new compensation system, based on table valuations, which was introduced in February 2006, is not supported by many in the farming industry.

DEFRA has not ruled out the possibility of changes to the current compensation system, but any changes would need to be justified and take into account the interests of all parties, including taxpayers. They would also need to take account of the extensive evidence in the level of over-valuation experienced under the previous system based on individual valuations. DEFRA held discussions with members of the Cattle Compensation Advisory Group about possible modifications to the new system without reaching any consensus. Discussions have also taken place with representatives from the organic farming sector to consider their view that system enhancements are needed for organically produced cattle.

A Judicial Review challenge concerning the table valuation system will be heard in the High Court in early June and any decisions about modifications to the system will take into account the judgment in that case.

Burbots: Imports

Sir George Young: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the request from the University of Southampton, London Zoo and the Environment Agency for an import licence for burbots. [203816]

Jonathan Shaw: We are in dialogue with the University of Southampton, London Zoo and the Environment Agency and are working collaboratively to find a solution to this situation.

Climate Change

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* wildlife trusts and *(b)* gardening associations on their evaluation of the impact of climate change; and what encouragement he is giving to them to measure that impact. [198240]

Joan Ruddock: I am in regular contact with a wide range of interest groups on the impact of climate change.

The England Biodiversity Group, chaired by DEFRA, oversees the delivery of the England Biodiversity Strategy which has several workstreams including Climate Change Adaptation. A number of national and local members of Wildlife Trusts are active members of different workstreams within the strategy and have the opportunity to offer their views on climate change and to influence the workstreams plans towards adaptation. In 2007 the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee published "Conserving Biodiversity—the UK Approach" a new strategic framework for the UK biodiversity action plan, which identified shared priorities for action for priority species and habitats, acknowledging the need to help biodiversity respond to climate change. The Wildlife Trusts belong to the Wildlife and Countryside Link who are members of the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee.

DEFRA has had discussions with members of the Growing Media Initiative (GMI), an industry-led group which has been set up to meet targets for the reduction of peat use in horticulture/gardening. A new project has also been funded by DEFRA to examine the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the extraction, production, processing, transport and use of growing media used by this sector and members of the GMI are involved in the Project Steering Group. In addition, DEFRA is aware that a number of growing media manufacturers and retailers are undertaking work to determine the carbon footprint of their products. DEFRA funds the UK Climate Impacts Programme, which will be hosting a stall at this year's Chelsea Flower show to promote awareness of current and projected climate change impacts.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which offices of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are outside London; how many staff were employed in each pay grade at each location on (i) 1 October 2001 and (ii) 1 April 2004; and how many are planned to be employed at each location on 31 March 2008. [180757]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has offices outside London at the following locations: Alnwick, Aston Down, Belfast, Beverley, Boston, Bristol Burghill Road, Bristol Temple Quay House, Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge Eastbrook, Cambridge White House Lane, Cardiff Cathays Park, Cardiff Llanishen, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, Chichester, Chorley, Crewe Electra Way, Edinburgh, Exeter, Felixstowe, Gatwick, Guildford, Heathrow AHO, Heathrow PHSI, Hereford, Kings Lynn, Leeds, Lewes, Lincoln, Newcastle, Northallerton, Northampton, Norwich, Nottingham, Peterborough, Polwhele, Reading Coley Park, Reading Kings House, Reading Innovation Centre, Sheerness, Shrewsbury, St. Asaph, Stafford, Stevenage, Swansea, Taunton Quantock House, Taunton Riverside Chambers, Tilbury, Trowbridge, Truro, Tunbridge Wells, Weybridge, Winchester, Witney, Wolverhampton, Worcester, Workington, Wye and York.

DEFRA's agencies have offices outside London as follows:

Animal Health:

Aberystwyth, Ashford, Ayr, Bakewell, Beverley, Boston, Bristol, Bristol Temple Quay House, Bury St. Edmunds, Caernarfon, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carlisle, Carmarthen, Chelmsford, Chorley, Crewe, Dorchester, Dover, Dumfries, Elgin, Exeter, Galashiels, Gloucester, Hamilton, Heathrow, Inverness, Inverurie, Itchen Abbas, Kirkwall, Launceston, Leeds, Leicester, Lincoln, Llandrindod Wells, Llanishen, Luddington, Maidstone, Newcastle, Northallerton, Northampton, Norwich, Nottingham, Oban, Oxford, Perth, Preston, Reading, Reigate, Shrewsbury, St. Asaph, Stafford, Stevenage, Stranraer, Taunton, Thurso, Trowbridge, Truro, Wolverhampton, Worcester, Wye and York.

Central Science Laboratory:

Sand Hutton York and Woodchester Park Gloucestershire.

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture:

Burnham, Lowestoft, Weymouth

Government Decontamination Service:

Crewe and Stafford.

Marine and Fisheries Agency:

Amble, Brixham, Fleetwood, Grimsby, Hartlepool, Harwich, Hastings, Holyhead, Kings Lynn, Lowestoft, Milford Haven, Newlyn, North Shield, Penryn, Penzance, Plymouth, Poole, Portslade, Portsmouth, Scarborough and Whitehaven.

Pesticides Safety Directorate:

York Foss House and York Mallard House.

Rural Payments Agency:

Reading, Carlisle, Exeter, Newcastle, Northallerton and Workington.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency:

Aberystwyth, Bury St Edmunds, Carmarthen, Langford, Lasswade, Luddington, Newcastle, Penrith, Preston, Shrewsbury, Starcross, Sutton Bonnington, Thirsk, Truro, Weybridge and Winchester.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate:

Addlestone

The number of staff in grade at each location for CSL and RPA are shown in the following tables. Information on the number of staff in each pay grade at each location for DEFRA, AH, CEFAS, GDS, MFA, PSD, VLA and VMD is not available for the dates requested.

Central Science Laboratory

Number

Staff by grade and location - 1 October 2001

	SCS	Band 7	Band 6	Band 5	Band 4	Band 3	Band 2	Band 1	Total
Sand Hutton	4.00	16.61	43.00	68.45	120.93	125.40	164.96	36.61	579.96
Woodchester Park	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	3.81	6.00	0.54	16.35
Other	0.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	9.54	15.15	6.00	10.50	45.19

Staff by location and grade - 1 April 2004

	SCS	Band 7	Band 6	Band 5	Band 4	Band 3	Band 2	Band 1	Total
Sand Hutton	4.00	17.00	54.25	83.11	123.86	157.25	159.14	39.76	638.37
Woodchester Park	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	7.81	3.00	0.54	17.35
Other	0.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	9.54	5.00	13.00	1.00	32.54

Forecasted staff by location and grade - 31 March 2008

	SCS	Band 7	Band 6	Band 5	Band 4	Band 3	Band 2	Band 1	Total
Sand Hutton	4.00	13.00	55.22	87.53	117.58	149.22	127.02	29.78	583.35
Woodchester Park	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.92	6.00	7.00	10.00	0.43	27.35
Other	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	9.54	5.00	4.81	0.00	21.35

Note:
'Other' category contains home-based staff and others not based at either main CSL site.

Rural Payments Agency

Staff by grade and location - 1 October 2001

Location	*SCS*	*G6*	*G7*	*SFO*	*SEO*	*HEO*	*EO*
Bristol	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	19.00
Cambridge	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	6.00	34.00
Carlisle	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	5.00	14.73	70.69
Crewe	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	9.81
Exeter	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	3.00	14.00	57.17
Inspectorate	0.00	0.00	3.00	2.00	10.00	22.49	97.96

Rural Payments Agency

Staff by grade and location - 1 October 2001

Location	SCS	G6	G7	SFO	SEO	HEO	EO
Newcastle	0.00	1.00	6.00	0.00	9.00	32.86	116.09
Nottingham	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.81	50.00
Reading	5.92	10.00	37.28	0.00	55.58	137.59	250.24
Worcester	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00
Grand Total	5.92	13.00	49.28	2.00	83.58	238.49	723.96

Location	PS	AO	SGB1	AA	TYPIST	SGB2	Grand Total
Bristol	0.00	14.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	41.00
Cambridge	0.00	59.28	0.00	17.54	1.00	0.00	119.82
Carlisle	0.61	95.68	1.00	81.01	4.11	2.00	276.82
Crewe	0.00	59.67	0.00	20.00	0.65	0.00	92.13
Exeter	1.00	180.64	2.11	58.01	1.69	2.00	321.62
Inspectorate	1.00	14.54	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	156.99
Newcastle	1.00	298.68	3.00	90.66	6.81	11.00	576.10
Nottingham	0.00	86.11	0.00	27.00	2.00	0.00	170.92
Reading	11.54	632.60	4.68	131.72	7.89	13.95	1298.99
Worcester	0.00	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	27.00
Grand Total	15.15	1445.20	10.78	440.94	24.15	28.95	3,081.39

Staff by Location and Grade - 1 April 2004

Location	SCS	GR6	GR7	SFO	SEO	HEO	EO
Reading	9.00	7.00	27.81	0.00	59.56	124.77	163.28
Cambridge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carlisle	0.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	5.86	15.94	51.37
Crewe	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	11.62
Exeter	0.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	5.00	16.86	55.43
Newcastle	0.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	7.00	23.68	55.26
Northallerton	0.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	5.00	16.46	39.68
Nottingham	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	3.81	13.62
Workington	1.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	6.00	18.83	71.34
Inspectorate	0.00	1.00	7.00	2.00	17.00	23.00	295.45
Total	10.00	12.00	46.81	2.00	107.42	245.35	757.05

Location	PS	AO	SGB1	AA	TYPIST	SGB2	Grand Total
Reading	6.00	356.54	2.00	4.00	27.39	7.81	795.16
Cambridge	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.00	2.74
Carlisle	0.68	155.02	0.00	2.50	95.74	1.00	332.11
Crewe	0.00	52.88	0.00	0.76	29.00	1.00	98.26
Exeter	1.00	225.61	1.55	0.00	107.22	5.00	420.67
Newcastle	0.86	229.12	1.00	0.81	78.21	5.41	404.35
Northallerton	1.00	221.44	1.49	0.93	135.98	4.00	428.98
Nottingham	0.00	99.35	0.00	2.59	41.43	1.00	162.80
Workington	2.00	311.63	15.34	0.00	41.58	0.00	470.72
Inspectorate	0.00	61.65	0.00	0.00	15.08	0.00	422.18
Total	11.54	1,715.24	21.38	11.59	572.37	25.22	3,537.97

Forecasted staff by location and grade - 31 March 2008

Location	SCS	GR6	GR7	SFO	SEO	HEO	EO
Reading	9.00	18.00	51.26	0.00	87.57	152.18	188.88
Carlisle	0.00	1.00	4.81	0.00	9.61	26.41	80.50
Exeter	0.00	1.00	4.00	0.00	6.94	24.60	89.57
Newcastle	0.00	1.00	5.00	0.00	15.39	30.83	100.58
Northallerton	0.00	2.00	5.93	0.00	12.80	33.68	91.95
Workington	0.00	1.00	6.00	0.00	9.41	25.31	110.00
Inspectorate	0.00	1.00	5.00	1.00	27.00	73.04	319.02
Total	9.00	25.00	82.00	1.00	168.72	366.05	980.50

	SCS	GR6	GR7	SFO	SEO	HEO	EO
Reading	0.00	165.31	1.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	677.20

	SCS	GR6	GR7	SFO	SEO	HEO	EO
Carlisle	0.00	282.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	404.44
Exeter	0.00	217.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	343.61
Newcastle	0.00	245.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	398.59
Northallerton	0.00	237.89	2.68	0.00	0.00	1.00	387.93
Workington	0.00	384.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	736.28
Inspectorate	0.00	32.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	458.42
Total	0.00	1,765.52	3.68	0.00	2.00	3.00	3,406.47

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which his Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203597]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The Cabinet Office publication "Public bodies 2007" lists the number of people serving on the boards of public bodies as at 31 March 2007. These figures are broken down by individual Departments. "Public bodies 2007" can be downloaded from

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp.

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time posts were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in his Department in each of the last three years. [200661]

Jonathan Shaw: Posts may be filled temporarily by a variety of means, eg using short-term appointments, temporary promotion, employment agency temporary staff or interims. Consequently, it is not possible to identify all posts filled temporarily for longer than six months without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201758]

Jonathan Shaw: Information to the level of detail requested is obtainable only at disproportionate cost.

The available information is set out in the following tables.

	Total written questions received	Total number of PQs answered within five sitting days	Percentage
November	559	357	63.9
December	359	220	61.3
January	425	265	62.4
February	407	286	70.3
March	371	256	69

	Total named day questions received	Total number of PQs answered on time	Percentage
November	133	49	36.8
December	67	27	40.3
January	143	61	42.7
February	69	33	47.8
March	71	20	28.2

My ministerial colleagues and I are committed to answering written parliamentary questions promptly. Unfortunately, this is not always possible.

Energy Saving Trust: Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments the Energy Savings Trust made to *(a)* Stratagem, *(b)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs, *(c)* Consolidated Communications and *(d)* Positif Politics Ltd. in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202293]

Mr. Woolas: The Energy Saving Trust is a private company limited by guarantee.

Environment Protection: Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to his Department's press release of 2 April 2008 on initiatives on greener homes, by what criteria green neighbourhoods will be selected; and what role he expects local authorities to play in the selection process. [202952]

Mr. Woolas: The Energy Saving Trust are currently working with a range of stakeholders to develop the programme with an aim to launch the competition for funding proposals by the end of the year. We expect the first successful projects to be funded from April 2009.

The competition will call for local alliances between householders, community groups, local authorities, energy suppliers, private companies and banks to come forward with proposals to transform homes and streets into green neighbourhoods. By pooling their resources, and with additional money made available from the domestic Environmental Transformation Fund, we wish to see the environmental performance of up to 100 such neighbourhoods across England transformed, with the aim of reducing their carbon footprints by over 60 per cent.

Fisheries: Trade Competitiveness

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the fuel subsidy given by Spain to its fishing industry on the competitiveness of the British fleet. [203201]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer given 1 May 2008]:* European Union (EU) state aid rules designed to prevent distortion to competition do not require the EU Commission clearance of an aid scheme or schemes which cumulatively pay less than £30,000 per recipient over three years. I understand that the Spanish Government are paying aid to its fishing fleet at a level below this "de minimis" limit and hence, no assessment has been made.

Flood Control

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency will publish its Strategy for Flood Risk Management for 2009 to 2014. [202515]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency will publish its Strategy in spring 2009.

Flood Control: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what analysis of critical infrastructure facilities has been undertaken in respect of Gloucestershire since July 2007; what additional protection has been put in place as a result; and what consideration has been given to the relocation of critical infrastructure. [201796]

Mr. Woolas: During the Gloucestershire floods, electricity supplies were disrupted due to flooding of the Castlemeads electricity distribution substation. In addition, the larger Walham electricity transmission substation required urgent flood protection measures to be carried out to prevent the site from being flooded. Both of these substations now have permanent flood protection barriers in place.

A review into the resilience of electricity substations to flooding was initiated by the Energy Minister. It is being led by the Energy Networks Association with support from network owners, BERR, Ofgem and the Environment Agency. This review has made contributions to Sir Michael Pitt's review into learning lessons from the 2007 floods and has developed a framework for assessing flood risk and mitigation measures that will be used to assess the situation at each of the major electricity substations during the remainder of 2008.

Severn Trent Water has been developing plans to secure alternative piped water supplies to Gloucestershire in the event of losing either Mythe or Mitcheldean Water Treatment Works. These plans are not limited to providing additional flood protection at the works and include such things as new pumping stations and improved interconnectivity between the works at Mythe and Strensham. The company presented outline proposals to Gloucestershire Overview and Scrutiny Management committee on 31 March 2008.

Fly Tipping: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were prosecuted for fly-tipping in the London borough of Enfield in each of the last five years. [202863]

Joan Ruddock: Data are only available from 2004 onwards.

I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library of the House showing the number of fly-tipping incidents and prosecutions recorded in each local authority by local authorities on Flycapture for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Following the release of the 2006-07 Flycapture statistics on 9 October 2007, this information has been sent to all MPs.

It is also available to download electronically on DEFRA's Flycapture website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Food: Prices

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the relationship between biofuels and rising food prices; and if he will make a statement. [202551]

Mr. Woolas: We have received various representations on this issue from both hon. Members and the public.

The Government are concerned about the effect of rising food prices. Although not the main cause, the demand for biofuels is a contributing factor. Other factors include adverse weather conditions affecting recent harvests, the increasing demand for meat and hence for animal feed in developing countries, trade restrictions imposed by Governments on exports and higher production costs, such as a rise in fertiliser prices.

Horses: Exports

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his officials last raised with the European Commission the ban on the import of UK thoroughbred bloodstock by the Indian Government. [203077]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has raised the issue of the ban on the export of breeding horses to India with the European Commission (and others) several times over many years, most recently in March this year. We will continue to do so as we and the Commission is very keen to resolve this long-standing issue in line with international protocol (World Animal Health Organisation) for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). The Commission has recently urged the Indian authorities to accept our invitation to visit the UK to see our CEM controls but the Indians have not so far taken up the offer. The Indian ban affects all countries in which CEM has occurred in the past three years, which includes other member states.

National Parks: Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to protect national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty from the effects of aircraft noise pollution. [203292]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has no formal role to play in how airspace is utilised. The Civil Aviation Authority is charged with scrutinising airspace change proposals and reaching a decision on them, balancing all the competing interests. I understand that Department for Transport guidance requires the Civil Aviation Authority to be rigorous in identifying and reviewing all significant environmental effects of airspace changes, and to notify the Secretary of State for Transport should an airspace change have a significant detrimental effect on the environment.

However, I recently asked my officials to write to the Civil Aviation Authority to remind it of its duty to have regard to the purposes of the National Parks under the provisions of section 11A(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and the purpose of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty under the provisions of section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Nature Conservation: Wildlife

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to increase the protection of endangered species. [202524]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* Species protection has both national and international facets to it, and recent steps to improve protection have included the following:

Following advice from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the water vole, short-snouted seahorse, spiny seahorse, roman snail and angel shark have now been given enhanced protection in England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

On 28 August 2007, I announced a new UK list of priority species and habitats (containing 1,149 species), which provides a focus for conservation action over the next decade and will be used to inform statutory lists under legislation in each of the countries of the UK.

In August last year, we brought into force regulations that increased the protection of species listed on annex IV of the habitats directive.

On the wider international stage, at the 2007 Conference of Parties to the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES), the UK fully supported the increased protection of a range of species affected by international trade including the slow loris, the European eel and brazilwood. During 2007-08, DEFRA provided funding of around £1 million towards the operation of CITES and other major conventions, most notably the convention on biological diversity (CBD) including targeted funding for specific projects to protect and conserve albatrosses and petrels, migratory sharks, African elephants, Indian ocean marine turtles and tigers. In addition, DEFRA provided £75,000 for the Flagship Species Fund, which included projects on endangered sea turtles, primates and conifers.

Office of Water Services: Finance

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial contributions water companies make to Ofwat. [200318]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat's expenditure is entirely funded through licence fees paid by appointed and licensed water companies in England and Wales. The fees recovered in 2007-08 came to a total of £12.4 million.

Packaging: Supermarkets

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage *(a)* supermarket shoppers to re-use plastic bags and *(b)* supermarkets to use less packaging; and if he will introduce schemes encouraging supermarkets to provide fewer plastic bags to shoppers. [202719]

Joan Ruddock: The Government pledged in the "Waste Strategy for England 2007" to phase out free single-use carrier bags.

The UK retail sector set itself a shared objective with the Government and the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) to reduce the environmental impact of carrier bags by 25 per cent. by the end of 2008.

The Prime Minister announced on 19 November 2007 that we needed to go further—to eliminate single-use carrier bags altogether in favour of long-lasting and more sustainable alternatives. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget on 12 March that we will introduce legislation to impose a charge on single-use carrier bags in 2009 if we have not seen sufficient progress on a voluntary basis.

The management of packaging and packaging waste is covered by two sets of regulations in the UK: the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended). The aim of both sets of regulations is to minimise the amount of packaging used in the first place, and therefore reduce packaging waste. An additional objective of the regulations is to encourage reuse of packaging and increase the recovery and recycling of packaging waste.

My Department continues to encourage supermarkets to take greater responsibility for the waste they place on the market and to encourage producers to reduce their waste. Apart from the two sets of packaging regulations described above, WRAP is currently working with retailers through the 'Courtauld Commitment', a voluntary agreement which aimed to halt packaging growth by March this year and make absolute reductions in packaging waste by 2010.

Pest Control: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of local authorities

charging for pest control services at the latest date for which figures are available according to estimates of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission. [202555]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA holds no information on either the number or proportion of local authorities which charge for pest control services. It is for local authorities to decide on the most appropriate pest control programme in their own area, whilst having regard to their duties for controlling rats and mice under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

Pests

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statistics his Department collects on *(a)* the size of the rodent population and *(b)* incidences of vermin infestation in England. [202951]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not collect statistics on the size of rodent populations. DEFRA will shortly be publishing an interim report on rodent presence in domestic properties as revealed by the English House Condition Survey data for 2002-03 and 2003-04. Key findings are that the occurrences of rats inside and outside properties in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001.

Plastic Bags

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of plastic bags used *(a)* by supermarket shoppers in the last 12 months and *(b)* in England in the last 10 years. [202718]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) estimates that over 13 billion carrier bags are distributed in the UK each year. Of these, the supermarket signatories to the WRAP's voluntary agreement on carrier bags accounted for 12.7 billion bags in 2006 and 11.6 billion in 2007, of which 89 per cent. were plastic in 2006 and 80 per cent. were plastic in 2007.

We do not have figures predating this, or for England only.

Seals: Canada

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last discussed the seal hunt in Canada with the Canadian Government; and if he will make a statement. [203811]

Jonathan Shaw: The last meeting with the Canadian Government at ministerial level took place on 28 March 2007 when Ian McCartney, the then joint Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), together with officials from DTI, FCO and DEFRA, met with a delegation from Canada to discuss the seal hunt.

More recently, officials from my Department, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and FCO, met with a delegation from Canada on 31 March this year to discuss the Canadian seal hunt.

I also wrote to the Canadian High Commissioner on 22 April agreeing to a meeting with me, or Ministerial colleagues at BERR or FCO, once the EU-commissioned report on the impact of any regulatory or other EU-wide measures in response to seal hunting has been published.

Sheep: Electronic Tagging

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the compulsory use of electronic identification for sheep; and if he will make a statement. [203078]

Jonathan Shaw: EC Council Regulation 21/2004 provides for the mandatory introduction of electronic identification (EID) of sheep and goats from 31 December 2009 for member states with flocks above a certain threshold number. In the UK only sheep will have to be electronically identified. We will be working in partnership with industry over the coming months to discuss how we can implement EID in a way which is practical and which the industry can make work.

Waste Disposal: Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the use of CCTV footage to monitor waste disposal. [202942]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 858W.

In addition, I can advise that local authorities are responsible for planning and monitoring their CCTV systems and that there has been no guidance issued by my Department on their use at municipal waste facilities or to monitor recycling.

Waste Management

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to improve local waste management. [202985]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* Waste Strategy 2007 outlines the role of local authorities in working towards improvements in local waste management.

My Department has recently announced that it has awarded PFI credits to four projects across England to improve local waste management. The projects will help local authorities deliver carbon benefits and divert over a million tonnes of waste from landfill. Each of the four projects will support the local authority's waste ambitions. All aim to reduce the overall amount of waste created, and it is anticipated they all will deliver a minimum of a 50 per cent. recycling rate by 2020, with some aspiring to reach 60 per cent.

My Department is also consulting on draft regulations and draft guidance for proposals for

establishing joint waste authorities in England. The consultation outlines that neighbouring local authorities, working together, can deliver better integrated and cost-effective waste services.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), which is partly funded by the Government, continues to support local authorities in their work to deliver better recycling services and more waste reduction.

World War II: Medals

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long on average it took for a successful applicant for the Women's Land Army Award to receive their badge in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [203467]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been over 28,000 applications for the Women's Land Army and Timber Corps badge. The badges are currently being manufactured and it is anticipated that they will be distributed to all applicants towards the end of June 2008.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications his Department had received for the Women's Land Army Award at the latest date for which figures are available; how many of those applications had been acknowledged; and if he will make a statement. [203471]

Jonathan Shaw: We have received approximately 28,200 applications for the Women's Land Army and Timber Corps badge. Completed application forms have not been acknowledged due to the high volumes received. However, all other written correspondence, approximately 3,000 pieces, has been acknowledged.

TREASURY

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1969W, on council tax: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement between the Valuation Office Agency and the IDeA in relation to Valuebill, redacting any commercially confidential elements. [203027]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency does not have a formal agreement with IDeA in relation to Valuebill.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Gate 4 review of the valuations project undertaken in relation to the Valuation Office Agency's planned council tax revaluation in England. [203124]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North-East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) on 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1017W.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of duty paid by consumers on vehicle fuel sold in the UK in each of the last five years. [203815]

Angela Eagle: The total excise duty raised on the quantities of vehicle fuel released for consumption is published in table 3 of the Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin. This can be found at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 227W, on housing: valuation, what technical name or definition was given to the localities referred to for the purposes of the automated valuation model; what co-efficient value was given to each locality for regression analysis; and what unique reference number or other identifier was given to each locality. [203029]

Jane Kennedy: There is no other technical name for localities as used by the Valuation Office Agency in the context of its automated valuation models. The Agency has defined a locality as being an area that is subject to the same, or similar, market forces. In the multiple regression analysis, coefficients generated for localities differ from locality to locality. The coefficient generated for each of approximately 10,000 localities in England could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Every 'live' locality within a Billing Authority area is allocated a unique number.

Income Tax

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of income tax which would otherwise have accrued to the Exchequer from those who have *(a)* taken early retirement and *(b)* moved from full-time to part-time work at each year from age 55 up to the state retirement age in each of the last three years. [203481]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available.

Taxation: Fuels

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much VAT revenue was raised from the sale of road fuel in each of the last 60 months for which figures are available; [203945]

(2) if he will estimate the average percentage of average household disposable income accounted for by *(a)* the purchase of road fuel and *(b)* the duty and VAT payable on road fuel in each of the last (i) five years and (ii) 12 months; [203946]

(3) what projections his Department has made of the amounts of revenue that would be raised annually from

(a) road fuel duty and *(b)* VAT on road fuel if the price of oil was (i) 120, (ii) 130, (iii) 140 and (iv) 150 US dollars per barrel; [203947]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

Annual estimates of the percentage of disposable household income accounted for by road fuels and duty and VAT payable on road fuels can be calculated from data held in the House of Commons Library. Data on average household income and expenditure are available from the Expenditure and Food Survey, published by the Office for National Statistics. Data on average road fuel prices per litre and average duty rates are contained in the "Tax Benefit Reference Manual". Data are not available on a monthly basis.

No projections of revenues at hypothetical levels of oil price have been made.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency's District Valuer Services makes of dwelling house coding for domestic properties. [203130]

Jane Kennedy: District Valuer Services makes use of dwelling house codes to assist in the valuation of domestic property, and analysis of transaction information.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency is the custodian of Valuebill. [203115]

Jane Kennedy: Yes.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts have been awarded to Rightmove.co.uk plc by *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency since 2001; at what cost; and for what purpose. [203125]

Jane Kennedy: One such contract has been awarded, a copy of which has been placed in the Library following a request from the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), answered on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1969W.

Valuation: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 508W, on valuation: ICT, how many localities are allocated to each billing authority area. [203028]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Working Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of those claiming the child care element of working tax credit have been reported as not using formal child care in each year for which figures are available. [202834]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not held in the format requested. However, I refer the hon. Member to the Child and Working Tax Credit Error and Fraud Statistics available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/error-fraud.htm

DEFENCE

Air Force: Labour Turnover

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have *(a)* joined and *(b)* left the Royal Air Force since 2005. [203772]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is reported in TSP1—Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces, and TSP4—Quarterly Manning Report, which provide a full and detailed breakdown of the figures requested. Copies of these are available in the Library of the House. These publications are also available on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice website at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp1/gender.html

and

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp4/commentary.html

Air Force: Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of training a new Royal Air Force recruit to the level of a fully operational fighter pilot. [203674]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Royal Air Force pilots continue to train throughout their careers and are considered to be combat ready after they have completed Operational Conversion Unit (OCU) training and a period of post OCU training on an allocated squadron. Costs of this training are shown in the following table by fast jet type.

£ million

Aircraft	*Cost of training a pilot up to Operational Conversion Unit*	*Cost of training a pilot in OCU and post OCU to combat ready status*	*Total*
Harrier	3.1	7.51	10.61
Tornado F3	3.1	4.04	7. 14
Tornado GR4	3.1	3.59	6.69
Typhoon	3.1	9.22	12.32

Armed Forces: Cadets

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cadet forces were disbanded in each year since 1997. [199490]

Derek Twigg: The MOD sponsors four cadet forces: the Combined Cadet Force; the Sea Cadet Corps; the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps. All four cadet forces have a long history and none have been disbanded.

Individual contingents/units/detachments/squadrons within each cadet force are formed and disbanded as the particular demands and aspirations of the communities they serve fluctuate. Information has not previously been held centrally. However, since 2007 the net change in cadet units is:

Combined Cadet Force—net gain 18 contingents.

Sea Cadet Corps—net loss nine units.

Army Cadet Force—net gain 22 detachments.

Air Training Corps—net gain two squadrons.

Armed Forces: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel were dishonourably discharged for drug abuse in each of the last five years. [203676]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following number of British servicemen have been discharged 'Services No Longer Required', which is a dishonourable discharge, in each of the last five years for failing compulsory drug testing.

	Number
2003	476
2004	492
2005	632
2006	669
2007	665

Armed Forces: Insurance

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1645W, on armed forces: insurance, for what reasons Territorial Army personnel are treated differently from the Regular Army for insurance cover while on deployment; and for what reasons the company Abacus refuses Territorial Army personnel cover during deployments. [202971]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I explained in my answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1645W, MOD facilitates the PAX, RPAX and Service Life insurance (SLI) schemes by means of contracts with the commercial providers. The cover for SLI is the same for TA as for regulars and that for RPAX will replicate the PAX cover in the near future. I understand that my hon. Friend the Under Secretary of State will be writing soon, in response to an issue you raised during the recent debate on the commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the Territorial Army, to explain that the premiums for SLI are the same for the TA as for regulars and that RPAX will remain cheaper than PAX even when the premium increase has been applied.

PAX and RPAX have different insurers but the same brokers. They are intended to run in parallel with the same cover, but with RPAX premiums slightly cheaper. It was decided to implement the PAX changes first because PAX is the larger scheme.

In addition to PAX RPAX and SLI there are a number of private insurance schemes available to Service personnel which MOD does not facilitate; the scheme provided by Abacus is one of these. We do not have contracts with the providers of these schemes and are unable to comment on the cover which they provide.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* value of (i) under-payments and (ii) over-payments to service personnel in each month between January and November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [203501]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend, the Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support to the noble Lord, Lord Selkirk of Douglas, in another place, *Official Report*, columns WA2-4.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Mates: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many forces widows were in receipt of a pension from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme at the latest date for which figures are available. [202150]

Derek Twigg: The number of widows, widowers and surviving partners in receipt of a pension from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme as at 1 January 2008 is 63,496.

Armed Forces: Personnel Management

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many hours of Joint Personnel Administration training are required before personnel become qualified; [202354]

(2) how many people in his Department were trained in Joint Personnel Administration in each year since 2005; [202356]

(3) how much his Department spent on Joint Personnel Administration training in each year since 2005. [202358]

Derek Twigg: The amount of training required varies according to the individual or their role. All self-service users complete a mandatory three hour e-learning Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) training package, whereas a Human Resources (HR) administrator will receive at least 80 hours of training, with additional training given as they progress through the ranks or are assigned to different roles. Other administrators complete training of a type and length appropriate to their role.

To date, some 201,300 self-service users have undertaken the e-learning JPA training package. The number of HR administrators who have completed training in each financial year since 2005 are as follows:

Financial year	*Number of personnel trained*
2005-06	1,219
2006-07	7,072

Financial year	Number of personnel trained
2007-08	1,054

Note:
The high number of HR administrators trained during financial year 2006-07 was due to 6,835 Army HR administrators being trained in readiness for the roll out of JPA to the Army in March 2007.

The cost of JPA training in each year since 2005 is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Prisoners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel were serving sentences in military prisons, at the latest date for which figures are available. [203671]

Derek Twigg: As at 1 May, there were 145 British service personnel serving sentences at the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester.

The Military Corrective Training Centre is not a prison. It is a military unit established for military corrective training. The majority of detainees are not sentenced for criminal offences, and return to their military duties on release; for example, a soldier would be sent there as a punishment for going absent without leave.

Armed Forces: Resignations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel left *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force prematurely in each of the last 10 years. [203673]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Voluntary outflow figures for the services in each of the last 10 years can be found in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 5—Trained Outflow to Civil Life. Monthly figures show the number of personnel who have outflowed in the previous 12 month period. TSP 5 is published monthly. The most recent publication presents outflow for the 12 months to 29 February 2008 and can be found at http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp5/tsp5tab5.html. Copies of TSP 5 are available in the Library of the House and also at

www.dasa.mod.uk.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 55W, on the armed forces: training, how many *(a)* crew personnel, *(b)* pilots and *(c)* each type of aircraft participated in Arctic flying training during the winter training period of 2007. [203468]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 48 pilots and 10 other aircrew personnel took part in Arctic flying training, during the winter training period of 2007. The number and type of aircraft which also participated are shown as follows:

Number	Type
5	Sea King Mk 4
3	Lynx Mk 7
2	Gazelle
3	Puma HC1

Army: Officers

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the actual strength of Army officers of each rank is; and if he will make a statement on the position and retention of captains. [202970]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army officers' strength as at 1 March 2008 is provided as follows:

Army Officers strength according to paid rank at 1 March 2008 [1]

	Number
Major General to General	60
Brigadier	180
Colonel	580
Lieutenant Colonel	1,750
Major	4,710
Captain	4,690
Second Lieutenant and Lieutenant	1,710

[1] All figures are provisional and are rounded in accordance with Defence Analytical Services and Advice conventions. Figures are for trained regular strengths only and therefore exclude Full Time Reserve Service, Gurkhas and Home Service Personnel of the Royal Irish Regiment.

Since 2004 there has been an increase in the number of Army Captains seeking Voluntary Outflow (VO) from service but the total number in service has actually increased, resulting in a reduction of the deficit against requirement.

The Army continues to monitor VO carefully, and is looking at a number of positive measures to improve retention and further reduce the deficit of captains. These include examination of the officer career management structure and conditions of service, and the commissioning of a greater number of officers both from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and from the non-commissioned ranks.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201778]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has made significant progress over the past 12 months in reducing energy consumption by taking such steps as improving building energy management and energy efficiency; installing more energy efficient lighting, automated metering and biomass boilers; focussing resources on the top 220 energy consuming defence sites; conducting audits; improving data management; making central funds available for energy efficiency/carbon emissions reduction projects; and embedding pro-rata energy efficiency targets into Service Delivery Agreement between MOD the Under-Secretary and the Department's management areas.

The Department has published figures for utilities expenditure since 2000. The figure for 2006-07 and 2005-06 have been published in the Department's accounts and are the latest figures available. The figures are:

Utilities	Financial year 2006-07 (£000)
Heating oil	33,335
Utilities consumption—USF	2,781
Gas	92,244
Electricity	170,459
Water and sewage	20,772
Total	319,591

Utilities	Financial year 2005-06 (£000)
Heating oil	30,913
Utilities consumption—USF	3,132
Gas	100,151
Electricity	141,186
Water and sewage	15,965
Total	291,347

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201757]

Derek Twigg: The information is not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the following tables shows the number of ordinary written questions answered within five working and named day questions answered on the named day since October 2007.

Ordinary written questions

Month	Received	Answered within five working days	Percentage
October 2007	371	180	49
November 2007	373	139	37
December 2007	419	79	19
January 2008	353	141	40
February 2008	264	132	50
March 2008	374	162	43

Named day questions

Month	Received	Answered on or before the named day	Percentage
October 2007	77	23	30
November 2007	54	24	44
December 2007	53	17	32
January 2008	74	31	42
February 2008	48	26	54
March 2008	75	39	52

Total

Month	Received	Answered within five working days or on or before the named day	Percentage
October 2007	448	203	45
November 2007	427	163	38
December 2007	472	96	20
January 2008	427	172	40
February 2008	312	158	51
March 2008	449	201	44

Ex-servicemen: Unemployed

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of former service personnel who were unemployed in each year since 1997. [203454]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence does not collect statistics in such a form as to be able to make an estimate of the number of former service personnel who were unemployed in each year since 1997. Data do however show that 94 per cent. of service leavers looking for careers after service life are in employment six months after discharge.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel completed the Northern Ireland Surveillance Course as part of their predeployment training for deployment to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2003. [203399]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No service personnel have completed the Northern Ireland (NI) Surveillance Course as part of their predeployment training for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. This course ceased to run in December 2006.

The Operational Training and Advisory Group runs a Static Covert Surveillance (SCS) Course which was developed from the NI Surveillance Course and has been adapted to meet the specific requirements of each operational theatre.

The Iraq SCS course was first delivered in January 2005 and as at 1 May 2008 a total of 630 soldiers have completed this training prior to deployment to Iraq. The Afghanistan SCS course was first delivered in March 2007 and 305 soldiers will have completed this training by the end of the current training year on 31 March 2009.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel have been court martialled for offences relating to the treatment of civilians and prisoners in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2001. [203670]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 28 service personnel have been court-martialled for offences relating to the treatment of civilians and prisoners in Iraq.

No service personnel have been court-martialled for offences relating to the treatment of civilians and prisoners in Afghanistan.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the UK's commitment for NATO's Operational Reserve Force to arrive in Kosovo. [203216]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is planned that the UK's commitment for the NATO Operational Reserve Force will be present in Kosovo and ready to begin its mission no later than 31 May 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what vehicles he expects British forces to use while serving as NATO's Operational Reserve Force in Kosovo. [203218]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The vehicles to be used by British forces serving as NATO's Operational Reserve Force in Kosovo include Snatch armoured Land Rovers, standard Land Rovers, Saxon personnel carriers, 4-ton trucks, battlefield ambulances and various engineering vehicles.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 16, on what date his Department *(a)* began and *(b)* completed pre-positioning equipment for the UK's commitment for NATO's Operational Reserve Force in Kosovo. [203288]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The pre-positioning of equipment in Kosovo for potential use by the UK troops operating as the NATO Operational Reserve Force began in early November 2007. The transportation of equipment will be completed by 31 May 2008, the date when the UK Battalion is due to be in Kosovo ready to begin its task.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 16, what equipment has been pre-positioned in Kosovo for the UK's commitment to NATO's Operational Reserve Force. [203289]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As of 30 April 2008, equipment that has been pre-positioned in Kosovo includes Snatch Land Rovers, standard Land Rovers, Saxon personnel carriers, 4-ton trucks, engineering equipment, vehicle spares, ammunition, food, riot control equipment (including shields and batons) and fuel.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 16, how many *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar and *(e)* VC-10 aircraft sorties were flown to pre-position the equipment required for the UK's commitment to NATO's Operational Reserve Force in Kosovo. [203290]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Two sorties were flown by C-130J Hercules in order to deliver ammunition. The C-17 Globemaster, C-130K Hercules, Tristar and VC-10 have not to date been used to pre-position equipment.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 16, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of troops which can be sustained by the pre-positioned equipment provided for NATO's Operational Reserve Force and *(b)* the length of time UK forces can be sustained with the equipment. [203291]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is planned that the battalion assigned to the NATO Operational Reserve Force (approximately 600 troops) will be sustainable for 30 days from the date its mission in Kosovo begins. This is in accordance with the requirements of the NATO Operational Reserve Force high readiness commitment.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was first informed that NATO would make a request for the UK to deploy a high readiness battalion to Kosovo; and when the request was formally received by his Department. [203935]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This commitment began on 1 January 2008. Since then, Ministers have been kept informed of discussions between the UK and NATO on this subject. The Department received a formal request from NATO for the deployment of the UK element of the operational reserve force on 7 April 2008. I said in the House on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 15 that we were responding to the request imminently. An announcement was subsequently made to Parliament on 29 April 2008 and a formal reply to NATO made on 2 May 2008.

Meteorological Office: Politics International

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what payments the Met Office has made to Politics International Ltd. in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose the payments were made in each case. [202255]

Derek Twigg: The Met Office has made the following payments to Politics International Ltd in each of the last five years:

2004	£
14 July	6,000.00
28 July	425.54
6 October	19.00
3 November	5,000.00
17 November	608.14
2005	
28 January	1,941.86
24 August	4,300.00
28 September	3,750.00
26 October	7,250.00
30 November	3,750.00
14 December	1,177.30
21 December	3,750.00
2006	
25 January	3,750.00
17 March	3,750.00
7 April	3,750.00
26 April	3,750.00
17 May	15.00
24 May	5,150.00
28 June	9,700.00
26 July	3,750.00
28 July	585.85
30 August	3,750.00
28 September	3,750.00
25 October	3,750.00
24 November	3,750.00
2007	
5 January	4,875.09
24 January	3,750.00
28 February	3,750.00
28 March	7,595.45
25 April	3,807.17
25 May	3,750.00
27 June	6,710.21
28 September	10,252.06
10 October	3,220.92
24 October	12,214.52
28 November	800.00
2008	
11 January	3,642.85
30 January	8,793.80
26 March	1,170.00

These payments relate to training for Met Office witnesses appearing before Select Committees; training for Met Office staff in stakeholder management; assistance with the development and strengthening of relationships with key stakeholders; and support for Met Office participation in stakeholder events relating to meteorology and climate science.

Military Decorations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to amend the criteria for the award of the General Service Medal; and if he will make a statement. [203491]

Derek Twigg: There are currently no plans to amend the criteria for the award of the GSM 1962.

Navy: Labour Turnover

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have *(a)* joined and *(b)* left the Royal Navy since 2005. [203721]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of personnel joining the Royal Naval Service since 2005 can be found in Table 3 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 1 - Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces. The number of personnel leaving the Royal Naval Service since 2005 can be found in Table 4 of the same publication. TSP 1 is published monthly. The most recent publication shows figures for data from 1 April 2003 to 1 March 2008 and can be found at

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp1/intake.html

for Table 3 and for Table 4

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tspl/outflow.html

Copies of TSP 1 are available in the Library of the House and also at

www.dasa.mod.uk

Prince William

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 887-88W, on His Royal Highness Prince William, if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of training His Royal Highness Prince William as a pilot. [202762]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No specific calculation has been made of the individual cost of HRH Prince William's flying training. However it is unlikely to exceed that of equivalent training undertaken by other trainees, given that basic flight training covers a series of set elements.

The cost of providing basic flying training for the RAF is detailed in the following table.

RAF flight training costs

Activity	*Aircraft type*	*Cost (£000) at 2007-08 prices*
Elementary Flying Training	Tutor	19.4
Basic Fast Jet Training	Tucano	93.5
Basic Rotary Wing Training	Squirrel	49.4
Total		162.3

Reserve Forces: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people there are in the Volunteer Reserve Forces; and what proportion of them have seen active service in either Iraq or Afghanistan. [203678]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The latest manning figures for the Volunteer Reserves (VRs) are as follows:

	Number
Royal Naval Reserve	2,220
Royal Marine Reserve	820
Territorial Army	30,000
Royal Auxiliary Air Force	1,280

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10

The overall proportion of VRs who have seen active service in Iraq or Afghanistan is not available, and the steady turnover of the Reserves would render such a figure relatively meaningless, but over 17,000 VRs have been mobilised in support of operations since 2003.

Since 2006, over 2,160 VRs have served in Iraq, and over 2,010 in Afghanistan.

Royal Military Academy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst was in each of the last three years. [203669]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cost to the public purse of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for the last three financial years for which validated figures are available is:

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*
2004-05	47,041
2005-06	45,268
2006-07	47,065

Territorial Army: Officers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army officers there were in each year since 1997. [203213]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The data provided have been extracted from Tri-Service Publication 7; the following table shows the strengths of Territorial Army officers as at 1 April 1997 to 2007.

	Officer strength
1997	6,130
1998	6,240
1999	6,250
2000	5,890
2001	5,380
2002	5,700
2003	5,740
2004	5,630
2005	5,550
2006	5,400
2007[1]	5,150

[1] 2007 data are as at 1 March. Due to the ongoing validation of the new Joint Personnel Administration System Territorial Army Officer data from April 2007 are currently unavailable.

Notes:
1. Officer figures from April 1998 to April 2004 are provisional estimates which include Full Time Reserve Service Personnel.
2. TA Officers include Group A and B, Mobilised TA, and excludes Non-Regular Permanent Staff (from 1998) and Full Time Reserve Service.
3. Data have been rounded to the nearest ten for statistical analysis and presentation purposes only.
4. Numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers in the Territorial Army qualified for their annual bounty in each year since 1997. [203214]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Weather: Forecasts

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the accuracy of weather forecasts provided by the Meteorological Office in respect of each region of the UK; and what plans he has to improve the accuracy of such forecasts. [201479]

Derek Twigg: The accuracy of weather forecasts provided by the Met Office is assessed through its performance in achieving its forecast accuracy key performance target (KPT). The KPT includes elements that measure the accuracy of forecasts for precipitation and maximum and minimum temperatures for 11 locations throughout the UK. The annual targets for these elements, which are agreed by me and laid before Parliament, have been met in each year since they were introduced in 2005.

Performance against the KPT is reflective of the continuous improvement in forecast accuracy made by the Met Office over the last twenty years. Today's

forecasts for three days ahead are more accurate than forecasts for one day ahead 20 years ago.

The government provides the Met Office with significant funding to support its activities. MOD, for example, is planning to invest £30 million in new, state-of-the-art super-computers. While investment in supercomputing is not the only factor in improving the accuracy of weather forecasts, it is significant as it underpins, amongst other things, the production of more accurate local-scale forecasts.

Through increased supercomputing capability, the Met Office expects to make further substantial improvements in forecast accuracy over the coming years.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many crimes of violence against a person there were in each constituency in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and what each figure represents per thousand of the population. [203437]

Paul Goggins: Tackling serious violent crime is a priority for the Government. Both the NIO's public service agreement to "Make Communities Safer" and this year's Policing Plan contain targets aimed at reducing the level of these kinds of offences.

The Chief Constable has provided the following information:

"The three tables below reflect the number of violent crimes by offence and rates per 1000 population".

Violent crime by parliamentary constituency, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and rates per 1,000 population

	2004-05					2004-05 rate per 1,000 population			
	Offences against the person	*Sexual offences*	*Robbery*	*Total violent crime*	*2004 mid-year population estimate*	*Offences against the person*	*Sexual offences*	*Robbery*	*Total violent crime*
Belfast East	1,152	77	96	1,325	77,732	14.8	1.0	1.2	17.0
Belfast North	2,230	232	171	2,633	82,406	27.1	2.8	2.1	32.0
Belfast South	2,481	306	158	2,945	92,834	26.7	3.3	1.7	31.7
Belfast West	2,257	190	107	2,554	85,706	26.3	2.2	1.2	29.8
East Antrim	1,014	38	82	1,134	85,292	11.9	0.4	1.0	13.3
East Londonderry	1,879	43	97	2,019	90,540	20.8	0.5	1.1	22.3
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	1,034	22	73	1,129	93,885	11.0	0.2	0.8	12.0
Foyle	2,222	68	142	2,432	106,889	20.8	0.6	1.3	22.8
Lagan Valley	1,586	79	83	1,748	104,604	15.2	0.8	0.8	16.7
Mid Ulster	1,200	13	52	1,265	89,657	13.4	0.1	0.6	14.1
Newry and Armagh	1,465	56	71	1,592	102,957	14.2	0.5	0.7	15.5
North Antrim	1,724	54	91	1,869	104,710	16.5	0.5	0.9	17.8
North Down	1,174	52	53	1,279	87,431	13.4	0.6	0.6	14.6
South Antrim	1,483	88	86	1,657	101,939	14.5	0.9	0.8	16.3
South Down	1,362	32	67	1,461	109,232	12.5	0.3	0.6	13.4
Strangford	1,123	54	54	1,231	99,588	11.3	0.5	0.5	12.4
Upper Bann	2,243	55	81	2,379	106,173	21.1	0.5	0.8	22.4
West Tyrone	1,591	20	78	1,689	88,747	17.9	0.2	0.9	19.0
Unknown[1]	119	8	44	171	—	—	—	—	—
Total	29,339	1,487	1,686	32,512	1,710,322	17.2	0.9	1.0	19.0

	2005-06					2005-06 rate per 1,000 population			
	Offences against the person	*Sexual offences*	*Robbery*	*Total violent crime*	*2005 mid-year population estimate*	*Offences against the person*	*Sexual offences*	*Robbery*	*Total violent crime*
Belfast East	1,200	90	92	1,382	77,583	15.5	1.2	1.2	17.8
Belfast North	2,525	365	99	2,989	81,736	30.9	4.5	1.2	36.6
Belfast South	2,788	292	150	3,230	92,818	30.0	3.1	1.6	34.8
Belfast West	2,405	267	81	2,753	85,028	28.3	3.1	1.0	32.4
East Antrim	1,178	55	40	1,273	85,878	13.7	0.6	0.5	14.8
East Londonderry	2,066	36	123	2,225	90,712	22.8	0.4	1.4	24.5
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	1,289	26	53	1,368	95,402	13.5	0.3	0.6	14.3
Foyle	2,330	70	164	2,564	107,296	21.7	0.7	1.5	23.9
Lagan Valley	1,624	87	97	1,808	106,450	15.3	0.8	0.9	17.0

	2005-06					2005-06 rate per 1,000 population			
	Offences against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total violent crime	2005 mid-year population estimate	Offences against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total violent crime
Mid Ulster	1,234	26	66	1,326	90,978	13.6	0.3	0.7	14.6
Newry and Armagh	1,497	51	66	1,614	104,482	14.3	0.5	0.6	15.4
North Antrim	1,640	50	109	1,799	105,983	15.5	0.5	1.0	17.0
North Down	1,234	49	88	1,371	88,199	14.0	0.6	1.0	15.5
South Antrim	1,480	93	92	1,665	103,260	14.3	0.9	0.9	16.1
South Down	1,576	30	76	1,682	110,692	14.2	0.3	0.7	15.2
Strangford	1,147	43	76	1,266	100,325	11.4	0.4	0.8	12.6
Upper Bann	2,099	76	97	2,272	108,111	19.4	0.7	0.9	21.0
West Tyrone	1,506	25	78	1,609	89,475	16.8	0.3	0.9	18.0
Unknown[1]	135	13	64	212	—	—	—	—	—
Total	30,953	1,744	1,711	34,408	1,724,408	17.9	1.0	1.0	20.0

	2006-07					2006-07 rate per 1,000 population			
	Offences against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total violent crime	2006 mid-year population estimate	Offences against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total violent crime
Belfast East	1,189	89	77	1,355	77,583	15.3	1.1	1.0	17.5
Belfast North	2,649	283	123	3,055	81,736	32.4	3.5	1.5	37.4
Belfast South	3,103	308	176	3,587	92,818	33.4	3.3	1.9	38.6
Belfast West	2,380	246	112	2,738	85,028	28.0	2.9	1.3	32.2
East Antrim	1,135	37	78	1,250	85,878	13.2	0.4	0.9	14.6
East Londonderry	2,237	36	125	2,398	90,712	24.7	0.4	1.4	26.4
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	1,271	27	83	1,381	95,402	13.3	0.3	0.9	14.5
Foyle	2,449	79	175	2,703	107,296	22.8	0.7	1.6	25.2
Lagan Valley	1,527	66	82	1,675	106,450	14.3	0.6	0.8	15.7
Mid Ulster	1,231	15	71	1,317	90,978	13.5	0.2	0.8	14.5
Newry and Armagh	1,530	80	73	1,683	104,482	14.6	0.8	0.7	16.1
North Antrim	1,611	52	105	1,768	105,983	15.2	0.5	1.0	16.7
North Down	1,346	37	69	1,452	88,199	15.3	0.4	0.8	16.5
South Antrim	1,541	62	81	1,684	103,260	14.9	0.6	0.8	16.3
South Down	1,535	37	67	1,639	110,692	13.9	0.3	0.6	14.8
Strangford	1,240	29	62	1,331	100,325	12.4	0.3	0.6	13.3
Upper Bann	2,112	61	84	2,257	108,111	19.5	0.6	0.8	20.9
West Tyrone	1,610	25	102	1,737	89,475	18.0	0.3	1.1	19.4
Unknown[1]	150	5	58	213	—	—	—	—	—
Total	31,846	1,574	1,803	35,223	1,724,408	18.5	0.9	1.0	20.4

[1] Offences are allocated to parliamentary constituencies via occurrence address postcode information. In some cases the postcode information is of poor quality and therefore cannot be allocated to a parliamentary constituency.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [199031]

Mr. Woodward: The Department (excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs) has spent £477,176.88 on publicity and advertising in 2007-08.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200011]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its Executive agencies conducted the following during the financial year 2007-08:

One survey using Millward Brown Ulster;

One survey and nine focus groups using SMR (Social and Market Research); and

One survey and three modules of a survey using NI Statistics and Research Agency.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Carbon Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the Commission has made of the Parliamentary Estate's carbon footprint in 2006-07. [202190]

Nick Harvey: The amount of absolute carbon being released into the atmosphere as a result of gas and electricity consumption on the Parliamentary Estate during 2006-07 was 4,015 tonnes. This figure was calculated from the monthly energy meter readings, with 10 per cent. of electricity consumption between April 2006 and January 2007 and 100 per cent. of electricity consumption between February and March 2007 derived from renewable sources.

The carbon emissions resulting from transportation have not been calculated so the direct/primary carbon footprint cannot be determined. The indirect/secondary carbon footprint cannot yet be determined either.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Clarence Mitchell

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Mr. Clarence Mitchell was seconded by his Department to act as an official spokesperson for the family of Madeleine McCann. [202007]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Clarence Mitchell was seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, from the Central Office of Information (COI), for a period of 25 days in May 2007 to provide assistance with the media to the family of Madeleine McCann. He resigned from the COI in September 2007.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based. [200691]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not have responsibility for a departmental pension scheme. UK civil servants employed by the FCO belong to the central Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme (PCSPS). The PCSPS publishes details of its unfunded liability in its annual resource accounts, copies of which are placed in the Library of the House.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91. [200692]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not have responsibility for a departmental pension scheme. UK civil servants employed by the FCO are members of the central Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme (PCSPS). The PCSPS has published details of unfunded liabilities in present value terms in its annual resource accounts since 2000-2001. Because the assumptions underlying estimates of unfunded liabilities, for example life expectancy, vary, they are not directly comparable from year to year.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200693]

Dr. Howells: UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Schemes (PCSPS). The PCSPS has published details of employer contributions in its annual resource accounts every year since 2000-01. Copies of the PCSPS accounts are held in the Library of the House.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by 1 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200694]

Dr. Howells: If the Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme were to raise the level of employee contributions to each of its schemes by 1 per cent. of salary, this would generate additional contributions equivalent to 4 per cent. of the total employer contributions made by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the schemes. In theory therefore it might permit a 4 per cent. reduction in the Department's expenditure on pension contributions.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200695]

Dr. Howells: The total cash equivalent transfer value of the public sector—Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme—pensions of the 10 staff with the highest salaries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and its Executive Agencies, at 31 March 2008 was £11,795,588.

The FCO discloses the cash equivalent transfer value of the pensions of each executive member of the FCO Board of Management in the remuneration report contained in the Department's annual resource accounts.

Diego Garcia: Detainees

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1188W, on Diego Garcia: detainees, what steps he has taken in response to the allegations received by his Department concerning US ships; whether those allegations related to *(a)* the USS Bataan and *(b)* the USNS Stockholm; and what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on this matter. [201896]

Dr. Howells: Our officials continue to work with their US counterparts on the details and implications of the new information passed to us on 15 February regarding two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary

wrote to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, further to his statement to the House of 21 February, to request clarification on a number of specific issues.

I can confirm that we are aware of non-governmental organisations' allegations relating to the USS Bataan and the USNS Stockholm.

Ethiopia: Qatar

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political implications of Ethiopia breaking off diplomatic relations with Qatar. [201918]

Dr. Howells: We do not assess there to be any significant political implications flowing from this action that will affect UK interests.

Gaza

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what international status the Government ascribes to the Gaza Strip. [203698]

Dr. Howells: The Government continue to regard the Gaza Strip as occupied Palestinian territory.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to respond to the letter of 25 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding a constituent, Mr. Blackwood of Fraserburgh. [202219]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary replied to the right hon. Member on 28 April.

Nuclear Disarmament

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps have been taken by the Government towards nuclear disarmament under the terms of Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. [203958]

Dr. Howells: The UK is strongly committed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and we are fulfilling all of our Treaty obligations, including those on disarmament under Article VI. We have reduced our nuclear platform to one delivery system, Trident, and have significantly reduced the operational status of that system. We have recently met our commitment to a further 20 per cent. reduction in the stockpile of operationally available warheads, contributing to a 75 per cent. reduction in the explosive power of the UK nuclear arsenal since the end of the Cold War.

In addition the UK is pursuing a programme to develop expertise in verifying the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons internationally. The aim of the study has been to examine and trial potential methodologies which could be used in a future multilateral nuclear disarmament regime. This work is continuing at the Atomic Weapons Establishment and will be presented to the 2008 NPT Preparatory Committee in Geneva.

Rendition

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the permissions system that operates on rendition flights through the UK; and if he will make a statement. [201951]

Dr. Howells: We would consider all the circumstances of a request for rendition through the UK or our overseas Territories and we would only grant permission if we were satisfied that it would accord with our domestic law and international obligations.

We continue to keep procedures under review to ensure that they meet the standards that we have set. Our officials are currently looking at the proposals of the all party parliamentary group on extraordinary rendition in light of the two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002. Once we have established more of the details and implications of these renditions we will take a decision on whether these proposals are necessary.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Ethiopian counterparts on the recent violence in Mogadishu, Somalia. [202753]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with his Ethiopian counterparts on the recent violence in Mogadishu.

However, our ambassador in Addis Ababa raised the recent violence in Somalia at senior levels of the Ethiopian Government. Our officials in London and at the UN have also raised this issue with their Ethiopian counterparts.

The Government maintains close contact with Ethiopia on Somalia and we continue to urge Ethiopian forces to show restraint, proportionality and respect for the local population in Somalia.

We are working with Ethiopia and our international partners to find a way for Ethiopia to withdraw as soon as possible, as Ethiopia has said is its intention, without allowing a security vacuum to emerge.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Ethiopian counterparts about the conduct of Ethiopian troops in Somalia; and what steps he is taking to support respect for human rights in Somalia. [202755]

Dr. Howells: My noble Friend the Lord Malloch-Brown raised the issue of human rights in Somalia with the Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in late January.

Our ambassador in Addis Ababa has raised respect for human rights in Somalia at senior levels of the Ethiopian government. Our officials in London and at the UN have also raised this issue with their Ethiopian counterparts.

The Government maintain close contact with Ethiopia on Somalia and we continue to urge Ethiopian forces to show restraint, proportionality and respect for the local population in Somalia.

The UK continually insists that human rights are fully respected by all parties in Somalia and has joined its international partners in clearly saying so in UN Security Council Resolutions, Communiqués of the Somalia International Contact Group and Resolutions of the UN Human Rights Council.

Insecurity in Somalia means that monitoring human rights and gathering reliable information is very difficult. However, if breaches of international human rights law are proved then we will condemn them unreservedly and expect those responsible to be held to account.

Somalia: Children

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to uphold the rights of children in captivity in Somalia. [202754]

Dr. Howells: The Government are committed to improving children's rights through access to education. In this respect, the Department for International Development (DFID) is already actively engaged in the education sector in Somalia.

The UK is committed to playing an active role in the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, which includes a focus on children detained for alleged association with armed groups in violation of international standards. Somalia is one of the 18 situations of concern listed by the UN Secretary-General in his Seventh Report to the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict. The work plans for this year include producing country reports and adopting conclusions on several countries including Somalia.

In recent years, the Government have funded the distribution of school textbooks through the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the establishment of an examination system in Somaliland with the Africa Educational Trust, as well as supporting basic primary education needs in the Hiraan region through Save the Children-UK. Last year DFID entered into a £6 million education partnership with the UN Children's Fund and UNESCO to strengthen access to basic education in Somalia.

South Africa: Chemical and Biological Warfare

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1707-8W, on South Africa: chemical and biological warfare, whether the investigation conducted into the allegations that UK Government officials and scientists had contact with or knowingly provided assistance to any South African chemical and biological weapons programme or persons involved in Project Coast considered the evidence to the Truth and Justice Commission that Wouter Basson used a house in the home counties of England to meet UK scientists and to circumvent the sanctions regime against South Africa; and if he will make a statement. [192701]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* The investigation into allegations that the Government was involved in providing information to personnel connected to South Africa's Chemical and Biological Weapons programme considered information from a variety of sources, including evidence given to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It was the policy of successive Governments from the mid 1970s to have no military cooperation with South Africa. There was no blanket ban on scientific contacts with South Africa during the apartheid period, though they were discouraged if they might contribute to the support or promotion of apartheid.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1707-8W, on South Africa: chemical and biological warfare, between what dates the full investigations were held into the allegations of UK assistance to Project Coast or other South African chemical and biological weapons programme; and if he will make a statement. [192703]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* UK investigations were initiated in 1998 and continued into 2001, following allegations made during hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that the Government was involved in providing information to personnel connected to South Africa's Project Coast. The investigations were thorough and included the relevant Government bodies. There was no evidence to suggest Government officials knowingly provided assistance to any South African Chemical and Biological Weapons programme.

Zimbabwe: Armed Forces

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to prevent the Zimbabwean military increasing its arms capacity. [202526]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* We believe that, against a backdrop of increasing tension and state-sponsored violence against civilians, it is quite the wrong time for any arms sales to Zimbabwe. We have therefore, with our EU partners, been actively promoting the need for states to refrain from such sales. We raised this issue at the UN Security Council on 29 April. Our embassy in Beijing has also raised our concerns with the Chinese Government. We hope all states will be able to agree to a moratorium on arms sales to Zimbabwe until a democratic Government is in place.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Conservation Areas

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of conservation areas in England at the latest date for which figures are available. [202838]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 1 May, 2008, *Official Report*, column 663W, on conservation areas, by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Iain Wright).

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff were employed in his Department in each year since 1997. [204144]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows the staff in post in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on 1 April each year from 1997 to 2008.

	Staff in post
1997	352
1998	365
1999	359
2000	407
2001	403
2002	469
2003	488
2004	490
2005	525
2006	523
2007	527
2008	477

Staff in post rose significantly between 1 April 2001 and 1 April 2002 reflecting machinery of government changes and a resulting transfer of staff from the Cabinet Office and Home Office.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department spent on wages and salaries in each of the last three years, broken down by departmental division. [203097]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's expenditure on wages and salaries, analysed by divisions, in financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 is set out in the table. The figures relating to financial year 2007-08 are subject to finalisation of annual accounts.

During the three years shown, there have been numerous transfers of functions, projects and other pieces of work between divisions. For instance, in 2005-06, Information Systems was part of Human and Business Resources before becoming a division on its own right. It should not, therefore, be inferred that changes in the levels of expenditure necessarily represent shifts in resources to or from a particular function.

£

Division	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*[1]2007-08*
Director General Culture, Creativity and Economy	232,266.40	320,452.87	777,946.81
Director : Industry	230,408.17	258,741.79	186,279.64
Creative Industries	827,131.53	838,073.20	735,933.49
Tourism	1,232,875.47	1,243,611.32	1,156,568.64
Gambling and Lottery licensing	629,407.41	684,894.34	752,408.21
Lottery Distribution and Community	640,427.02	630,066.07	393,531.83
Broadcasting Policy	1,558,616.95	1,637,335.35	1,458,822.90
Active Generation	n/a	4,710.57	281,512.58
Director General Children and Young People	531,748.97	570,342.63	n/a
Director : Arts and Culture	394,673.34	293,311.14	273,690.44
Arts	797,209.16	860,177.06	864,344.58
Museums and Cultural Property	1,297,224.62	1,283,971.07	1,210,680.85
Government Art Collection	528,176.42	553,565.05	559,204.54
Architecture and the Historic Environment	1,280,254.15	1,325,700.07	1,245,157.18
Humanitarian Assistance	n/a	279,343.05	261,491.61
Local, Communities and International	1,011,508.79	725,577.75	707,462.24
Director : Sport	129,449.55	164,799.70	20,646.70
Sport	1,283,894.03	1,365,348.33	1,423,367.20
Director : Olympics	678,034.66	1,687,876.45	2,906,331.71
Director General: Chief Operating Officer	216,288.84	317,803.94	412,009.94
Director : Modernisation	251,274.10	n/a	n/a
Public Appointments, Honour and Modernisation	705,331.05	686,517.14	555,710.83
Strategy	1,310,172.09	1,360,607.88	1,167,115.78
Transformation Team	n/a	n/a	187,302.32
Human and Business Resources	1,601,738.93	1,081,145.88	1,113,099.48
Finance and Planning	695,058.47	686,852.10	734,342.25
Internal Audit	188,877.85	n/a	n/a
Secretary of State's office	695,005.24	631,905.14	575,377.02
Minister Tourism, Film and Broadcasting	136,657.95	142,077.99	43,048.58
Minister for Culture	151,929.68	159,151.97	167,169.11
Parliamentary Branch	304,886.21	332,285.32	323,825.05
Permanent Secretary's Office	381,581.32	345,129.25	373,183.91
Minister for Sport	172,679.39	185,090.43	167,971.70
Director : Strategic Communications	145,684.80	134,674.27	138,312.85

Division	2005-06	2006-07	£ [1]2007-08
News and Communications—Information Centre	101,006.23	85,220.35	63,875.21
News and Communications—Promotion/Publicity	275,054.12	323,126.45	289,907.14
News and Communications—Press Office	579,152.50	827,712.48	769,875.01
Information Systems	n/a	717,359.72	724,640.13
Central Information Briefing Unit	n/a	436,261.28	489,077.74
Total	21,195,685.41	23,180,819.40	23,511,224.30

(i) [1]2007-08 figures subject to finalisation of annual accounts
(ii) All figures include wages, salaries, overtime, special bonus payments and inward secondee costs.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the funding provided to his Department by each of its non-departmental public bodies for *(a)* his Department's joint research budget and *(b)* the Taking Part survey comes from (i) their departmental allocation and (ii) National Lottery income. [203096]

Margaret Hodge: Funding provided to the Department by each of the participating non-departmental public bodies for *(a)* the Department's joint research budget and *(b)* the Taking Part survey is as follows:

£ million

Body	2008-09 (a) Joint Research Budget	(b) Taking Part Survey	Total
Arts Council England	0.200	0.300	0.500
English Heritage	0.057	0.080	0.137
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	0.007	0.080	0.087
Sport England	0.036	0.600	0.636

The proportion which comes from (i) their departmental allocation and (ii) National Lottery income, is as follows:

	2008-09 Departmental Allocation (£)	Percentage	National Lottery Funding (£)	Percentage
Arts Council England	All	—	—	—
English Heritage	All	—	—	—
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	All	—	—	—
Sport England	286,200	45	349,800	44

Departmental Research

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the annual research budget for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Arts Council England, *(c)* Sport England, *(d)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(e)* English Heritage, *(f)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(g)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council was in each of the last three years; and how much he expects each to spend on research in 2008-09. [203089]

Margaret Hodge: The annual research budget for the Department and the named organisations (as provided by those organisations) in each of the last three years, and planned spend for 2008-09, are set out in the table. All figures are inclusive of VAT:

£

Financial year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Planned spend 2008-09
DCMS	1,501,000	2,796,000	1,891,000	[1]—
Arts Council	470,000	925,000	805,000	[1]—
Sport England	3,700,000	3,100,000	2,500,000	[2]1,800,000
BLF	100,000	125,000	130,000	166,000
English Heritage	7,451,000	5,561,000	5,731,000	5,579,000
Heritage Lottery Fund	563,000	561,000	493,000	552,000
MLA Council	461,000	475,000	590,000	485,000

[1] To be determined
[2] For the period 2008-09 this is an estimated figure as the budgets are being compiled and the figure quoted is for half a year.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of conducting staff surveys was for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Arts Council England, *(c)* Sport England, *(d)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(e)* English Heritage, *(f)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(g)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in each of the last three years; and how much he expects each to spend on such surveys in 2008-09. [203088]

Margaret Hodge: The annual cost of staff surveys for the Department and the named organisations (as provided by those organisations) in each of the last three years, and planned spend for 2008-09, are set out in the table. All figures include VAT. The figures include the costs of the main staff survey and do not include ad hoc requests for information.

	Financial year			
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*[1]2008-09*
DCMS	20,000	0	21,540	0
Arts Council	28,000	23,400	18,300	[2]—
Sport England	13,543	15,897	[3]—	[4]—
BLF	[5]—	8,500	9,000	9,500
English Heritage	0	0	39,550	0
Heritage Lottery Fund	0	0	0	0
MLA Council	0	3,173	0	0

[1] Planned spend.
[2] Figures not available.
[3] None undertaken.
[4] None planned.
[5] No survey

English Sports Council: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the staff costs at each of Sport England's regional offices were in each of the last three year for which figures are available. [204150]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The costs were as follows:

Part 2: Regional staff costs for last three years[1]

Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	774,564	829,290	825,850
Yorkshire	699,675	768,683	767,205
East Midlands	792,948	880,039	828,087
East	701,932	362,778	793,141
London	846,095	1,025,970	1,052,293
South East	871,171	937,940	797,033
South West	882,430	890,032	845,956
West Midlands	749,063	857,871	844,785
North West	823,453	988,692	877,793
Total	7,141,330	8,041,296	7,632,143

[1] Includes salary, overtime, healthy life style benefits, employers pension and NI

Gambling Act, 2005

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the Scoping Study for a UK Gambling Act 2005 Impact Assessment Framework was *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* planned to be published at the time it was commissioned. [203936]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Scoping Study for the UK Gambling Act, 2005 Impact Assessment Framework was commissioned in May 2006 and scheduled for completion in November 2006. DCMS did not stipulate a publication date. However, it was published on 26 February 2008 and has been placed in the House Libraries.

Lacrosse

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage more young people to play lacrosse. [203636]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Lacrosse is one of 22 focus sports in the Step Into Sport programme (part of the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Children and Young People). Between April 2003 and March 2009 the English Lacrosse Association (ELA) will receive £78,000 from Sport England to develop volunteering and leadership opportunities as part of the Step into Sport programme. In addition, the ELA has been awarded £357,000 from Sport England's club and coach funding to develop talent during the period 2008-11.

Lacrosse: Finance

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was allocated to British elite lacrosse players in each of the last five years. [203622]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Lacrosse was identified as a 'development sport', due primarily to its potential to help people to start and continue to participate in sport. The English Lacrosse Association (ELA) submitted its Whole Sport Plan and was awarded £1.26 million for the four year period 2005-09. While the funding was primarily provided to grow and sustain grassroots participation in the sport, the English Lacrosse Association could, and indeed has, utilised some of the funding to support its England teams. It is for the ELA to decide how to utilise and deploy its Whole Sport Plan funding.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Sport England spent on supporting the development of lacrosse in each of the last five years. [203623]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has spent the following amounts in the last five years supporting lacrosse.

	Spent
2003-04	150,833
2004-05	299,000
2005-06	289,333
2006-07	297,000
2007-08	485,598
Total	1,521,764

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when *(a)* he and *(b)* a Minister in his Department last met the English Lacrosse Association to discuss (i) funding of and (ii) participation in the sport. [203624]

Andy Burnham: Since their respective arrivals in post, none of the current Ministers in DCMS have met with the English Lacrosse Association.

National Lottery: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much lottery funding was awarded to projects in Wirral South constituency in 2007-08. [203704]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Approximately £349,000 was awarded in Wirral South during 2007-08. This figure is derived from the Department's Lottery Grants Database, which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors and is searchable at :

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Big Lottery Fund's outreach strategy in Wirral; and if he will make a statement. [203707]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No assessment has been made by DCMS on the effectiveness of the Big Lottery Fund's outreach strategy in Wirral. This is an internal operational matter for the Big Lottery Fund.

I have asked Peter Wanless, chief executive of the Big Lottery Fund, to write to my hon. Friend on this matter.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the ratio of lottery funding applications to grants in the last five years in Wirral South constituency; and if he will make a statement. [203831]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not collect data on the number of applications made to lottery distributing bodies and could obtain the information only at disproportionate cost, so no such estimate has been made. All lottery distributors are directed to make guidance on how to apply for lottery funds widely available.

Regional Cultural Consortiums: Standards

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of regional cultural consortia in meeting their objectives since establishment. [200300]

Margaret Hodge: The aims, objectives and key activities for the Regional Cultural Consortia (RCCs) are agreed through their Funding Agreements with the Department. Their performance is monitored on an ongoing basis through regular feedback to my officials and reported on each year through the RCCs' Annual Reports and Accounts.

The RCCs have also been periodically reviewed, in accordance with the business needs of my Department In early 2002, the RCCs underwent a review to assess the effectiveness of their operations. As recommended by the review, the Consortia were reconstituted as executive NDPBs and companies limited by guarantee in 2004.

My Department is currently conducting a review of all our regional arrangements with the aim of delivering a more effective and efficient regional infrastructure. The work of the RCCs is included in this review.

Regional Development Agencies: Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department provided to the *(a)* Eastern, *(b)* East Midlands, *(c)* West Midlands and *(d)* South West regional development agencies in the last financial year; and what proportion of this funding to each agency was ring-fenced for tourism-related purposes. [201772]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* Funding for regional development agencies (RDAs) is not ring-fenced for particular economic sectors, such as tourism. In 2007-08, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) contributed £3.6 million to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's (DBERR's) single programme budget (the "Single Pot") in respect of the tourism responsibilities of the eight RDAs outside London. Tourism support expenditure by all the RDAs in 2007-08 is estimated at £43.5 million.

Regional Sports Boards: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the administrative budget of each regional sports board in England was in each of the last three years. [204151]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The budgets were as follows:

Part 3: RSB administration budget for last three years

	Original budget for each year		
Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	16,000	16,000	15,000
Yorkshire	11,000	10,000	10,000
East Midlands	10,000	10,000	15,000
East	12,000	15,000	15,000
London	10,000	15,000	15,000

Part 3: RSB administration budget for last three years

Region	Original budget for each year		
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
South East	12,000	15,000	15,000
South West	17,000	15,000	15,000
West Midlands	10,000	10,000	15,000
North West	20,004	17,500	15,000
Total	118,004	123,500	130,000

Taking Part Survey

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what changes are planned for the next Taking Part survey; and what the reasons for each change are; [202331]

(2) what changes he expects to be made to the Taking Part survey in 2008-09. [203094]

Margaret Hodge: The Taking Part survey is run by DCMS in partnership with four of our NDPBs—Sport England, Arts Council England, English Heritage, and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. Together, we have committed to running the survey for a further three years, beginning in July 2008.

The survey enables us to understand and monitor people's engagement with DCMS sectors, and we are keen to maintain continuity with data already collected so that our knowledge builds over time. The survey methodology will therefore remain broadly similar to that of previous years, that is, continuous face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of adults aged 16 and above and children living in private households in England.

The new contract is currently being drafted and will determine the scope of the survey going forward. In response to the changing needs and strategic objectives of the survey's partners and stakeholders, our intention is to reduce the scale of the survey and revise the questions asked.

We have been interviewing around 28,000 people each year. However, this is likely to be halved as we no longer plan to measure small changes within sub-samples of the population. The reduction will also help to make cost savings.

We are also reviewing the questions that we ask respondents. Some questions will remain the same but through consultation with the survey's stakeholders and our own research and analysis we are identifying key questions that are necessary and relevant to DCMS and NDPB priorities.

The scope and questions will be finalised in the coming weeks and, following piloting, fieldwork for the new Taking Part survey will begin in July. The survey will continue to evolve throughout the contract period (2008 to 2011).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which his Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203730]

Mr. Thomas: The Cabinet Office publication "Public bodies 2007" lists the number of people serving on the boards of public bodies as at 31 March 2007. These figures are broken down by individual Departments. "Public bodies 2007" can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Developing Countries: Malaria

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of children who die from malaria in developing countries since 1997. [203531]

Mr. Malik: Since 1997 the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided support for malaria control, targeted at both children and adults, through international organisations and partnerships, bilateral programmes and research. In April the Prime Minister announced that the UK will provide 20 million insecticide treated bed nets which are vital for protecting children from malaria and to prevent malaria deaths.

DFID is providing £1 billion by 2015 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. To date the Fund has disbursed US$ 5.5 billion, 25 per cent. of which goes to malaria programmes. DFID has also provided £49 million to the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership which plays an important role in helping countries develop and secure finance for national malaria plans.

At the country level, DFID support in Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria includes the treatment of children.

DFID provides over £16 million for new drug development through its support for the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, (DNDI) and the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV). Both are developing new malaria drugs.

Food: Prices

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to mitigate the effects of rising food prices on the populations of developing countries in the last 12 months. [203532]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government are very concerned about the effects of rising food prices on the poorest. There are already 850 million who do not get enough to eat, and as prices rise this number will increase. Our response has been short-term humanitarian aid to those most seriously affected as well as medium and longer-term strategies to assist the hungry.

Provisional figures for the 12 months up to March 2008 indicate that the Department for International Development (DFID) spent £342 million on humanitarian programmes, and much of this will have helped mitigate the effects of high food prices. A further £30 million was pledged to the World Food programme (WFP) last week. Our approach has prioritised protecting the extreme poor from the effects of high food prices. In Africa,

DFID spent £50 million over the last year on social safety net programmes, which reach 10 million people in Ethiopia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Kenya. As part of our longer term work, DFID spends around £120 million a year directly on agriculture to help increase food production. Last week we announced an additional £400 million over the next five years to be spent on agricultural research.

International Assistance: Private Sector

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to involve private sector organisations in the facilitation of development in developing countries since 1999. [203533]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government work with developing country governments to support the growth of the private sector in their countries, and we fund a range of initiatives to encourage business to invest in key areas.

We are currently working with major companies on the business call to action and on May 6 we showcased concrete initiatives taken by leading companies to use their core business to promote growth and development.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has helped to establish and provides financing to the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa and the Private Infrastructure Development Group. Jointly with business we support the Investment Climate Facility for Africa, and recently announced the establishment of the International Growth Centre, which will deliver world class research and analytical and policy support to developing countries on growth.

DFID also works directly with individual companies and business organisations to maximise the impact of business on development. The UK Government launched the extractive industries transparency initiative in 2002 and are currently launching two new initiatives to promote transparency in the construction sector and the medicines sector—the construction sector transparency (CoST) initiative and the medicines transparency alliance (MeTA). DFID also supports the ethical trading initiative and the multi-fibre arrangement forum, both of which promote responsible and successful business practices.

Latin America: Children

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has discussed programmes which could be designed to reduce the flow of street children to Latin American cities with partner non-governmental organisations. [202700]

Mr. Malik: Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development have had discussions with partner non-governmental organisations about programmes which could be designed to reduce the flow of street children to Latin American cities. In Latin America we work through multilateral institutions such as the EC and World Bank and the plight of these vulnerable groups is an important priority in their programmes.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects are funded by his Department to assist street children in Latin America. [202701]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development is not currently funding any projects to assist street children in Latin America.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of international aid requested from the UK by overseas countries was paid in each year between 1997 and 2007. [203814]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold figures on the proportion of international aid requested from the UK by overseas countries that was paid in each year between 1997 and 2007.

However, the following was given by the UK in official development aid (ODA) in each year since 1997.

UK official development assistance, 1997 to 2007

£ millions

	ODA
1997	2,096
1998	2,332
1999	2,118
2000	2,974
2001	3,170
2002	3,285
2003	3,834
2004	4,313
2005	5,925
2006	6,770
2007 (provisional)	4,957
Total 1997 to 2007	41,774

St. Helena: Airports

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the provision of an airport on the island of St Helena. [203725]

Mr. Malik: We have now completed the evaluation of the two bids received last November and are moving into a period of competitive negotiations with both contractors.

On the island, the formal procedure for applying to the Governor-in-Council for the granting of planning permission started on 5 May. A public information week will be held later in May as part of this process.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the UNAMID force in Darfur on the numbers of women peacekeepers. [202498]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

We have made representations to the UN and the African Union on the importance of an integrated mission plan to ensure that the civilian, police and military elements of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) work closely together, including on gender issues. We have raised with international partners and the UN the need for the police component of UNAMID to be trained on community policing and gender-based violence. We continue to press all parties for the rapid deployment of an effective mission, and we welcome an increased representation of women peacekeepers within UNAMID.

Sudan: Sexual Offences

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in Darfur. [202497]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, briefed the UN Security Council on 22 April that there was evidence of high levels of sexual violence in West Darfur over the past two months.

The UK has called on the Government of Sudan, and the armed groups, to end the human rights abuses in Darfur. We are supporting the rapid and effective deployment of the UN African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to protect internally displaced persons (IDP) and address the issue of violence against women. UNAMID has increased patrols to protect IDP gathering firewood and increased policing of IDP camps. We have raised with international partners and the UN the need for the police component of UNAMID to be trained on community policing and gender-based violence.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Antisocial Behaviour: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what authority police forces have to issue penalty notices for disorder to persons under 16 years of age. [203258]

Beverley Hughes: The following legislation provides authority to police forces to issue penalty notices for disorder (PND) to persons under 16 years of age. Sections 1 to 11 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 introduced PNDs. Section 87(2) Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 extended PNDs to 16 to 17-year-olds. Section 87(3) provided an order making power to extend the age range to no lower than 10 years of age. That power was exercised by statutory instrument 2004 No. 3166.

Assessments: Absenteeism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools had over 5 per cent. absence levels from Key Stage 3 tests in the years 2005 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [203145]

Kevin Brennan: Information on schools' Key Stage 3 (KS3) test absence levels for the years 2005-07 can be found on the Department's Achievement and Attainment Tables website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/.

Information on schools' KS3 test absence levels for the KS3 2008 tests will be published on the Achievement and Attainment Tables website in February 2009.

Cadets: Armed Forces

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cadet forces were operating in maintained schools in the latest period for which figures are available. [201697]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently 188 single Service Cadet Units, and 60 Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Contingents, in State (maintained) schools. The 60 CCFs represent 23 per cent. of the overall number of CCF contingents in schools.

Children in Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of children in care in each local authority area *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of all children in the local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [201190]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of children in care in each local authority area *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of all children in each local authority area has been placed in the House of Commons Library (table LAA1).

Table LAA1 is taken from the Statistical First Release entitled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007", which is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

and table LAA1 can be found within the first set of 10 additional tables supplementing SFR27/2007 on the website.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many cases of self-harm were diagnosed in children in care in each of the last 10 years; [203593]

(2) how many children in care were identified as gifted and talented in each year for which data is available; [203595]

(3) how many children in care had been separated from their siblings in each of the last 10 years. [203596]

Kevin Brennan: Data on (a) the number of cases of self-harm that were diagnosed in children in care, (b) the number of children in care who were identified as gifted and talented and (c) the number of children in care that have been separated from their siblings are not collected centrally by the Department.

Local authorities have a legal duty to safeguard the children they look after and to promote their welfare. Discharging this duty includes making a full assessment of each individual child's needs and ensuring that provision is put in place via the child's care plan to meet those needs. This includes in relation to education and to mental health issues.

Local authorities are required by law to make arrangements for a looked-after child to live with their relatives (including siblings), so long as it is reasonably practicable and consistent with the child's welfare to do so. Authorities are also required to promote contact between the child and their siblings, unless it is not reasonably practicable or consistent with their welfare to do so.

Children: Disabled

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the implementation guide for Aiming High for Disabled Children's core offer will be published. [203689]

Kevin Brennan: The implementation materials for the core offer, together with the national core offer, will be published on 15 May as part of the re-launch of the 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' section of the Every Child Matters website. The implementation materials, which pull together sets of existing guidance and examples of service delivery, will help local authority and primary care trusts implement the core offer locally.

Children: Prisoners

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support the Government offers for children of prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [202992]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

£5 million is spent each year to help offenders maintain positive ties with their children and families and to improve outcomes for the children of prisoners. Most prisons now have a visitor centre outside the gate, providing information and support for families. Over 100 prisons in England and Wales offer supervised play areas for some visits. Special visits are arranged which focus on the needs of the child. There is also provision for mothers to have young children with them in prison, where this is in the interests of the child.

Last year, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice conducted a priority joint review to improve support for the children of offenders. It concluded that parental imprisonment is a valuable opportunity to identify children at risk of poor outcomes and to offer them support. The findings, which were published in parallel with the "Think Family: Improving the life chances of families at risk" review, on 10 January 2008, can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~/media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/think_families/offenders_review_080110%20pdf.ashx

As part of the "Think Family" approach, which includes the £16 million Family Pathfinder programme, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice are exploring better ways to meet a child's needs when a parent goes to prison.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in *(a)* Basingstoke constituency, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England had at least one parent who are in prison in each year since 1997. [202993]

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* Bexley borough had at least one parent in prison in each year since 1997. [203566]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of children having a parent in prison is not collected centrally.

A 2003 resettlement survey of 1,945 adult British national sentenced prisoners showed the average number of children per prisoner was 0.87. Using this information it was estimated that during 2005, 160,000 children had a British national parent in prison at some time.

More detail on the 2003 survey is available in Home Office Research Findings 248 which is available on the RDS website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/rfpubs1.html

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196590]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not hold a comprehensive central record of contracts. Available records show the following contracts were awarded to the named organisations during the period April 2007 to January 2008. Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Organisation	*Project/contract name*	*Start date*	*Estimated total value of contract (£)*
KPMG	LCSB Priority Review	November 2007	1,000
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Teachers TV, Governance Review	April 2007	51,829
	Evaluation of High Performing Specialist Schools	May 2007	239,930

Organisation	Project/contract name	Start date	Estimated total value of contract (£)
	Deputy Director for Educational Procurement Centre	May 2007	120,000
	Evaluation of the Progression Pilot	August 2007	930,583
	Educational Procurement Centre Events and Marketing Manager	August 2007	90,000
	Teachers TV, Bid Evaluation (financial aspect)	August 2007	62,579
	To carry out a review of the Languages Support Network	August 2007	66,000
	Post-16 Statistical First Release review	September 2007	35,000
	To gather a range of information from LA and schools in relation to contracts of employment, term time only formula, job descriptions and pay rates so that SSWG can move forward to develop a new pay and conditions framework for school support staff.	September 2007	112,746
	State of the Market in Schools Improvement Services	October 2007	6,825
	PWC Contact for Contact Point Centre for Excellence and Outcome grant, admin costs, running sourcing grant process	November 2007	103,107
	End of Year Coaching	January 2008	23,500
	Excel Training	January 2008	13,576
Ernst and Young	None recorded	—	—
McKinsey	None recorded	—	—
Deloitte	Staying Safe Good Practice Compendium	December 2007	34,870
	Evaluation of Regional Commissioning pilots	October 2007	112,655
	Contact Point Data Security Review	December 2007	140,999

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what Gershon savings his Department and its predecessor have made since 1 April 2005. [202107]

Ed Balls: My Department is jointly committed with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), to the efficiency target set originally for the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

The DfES target is 2.5 per cent. a year over the Spending Review 2004 period. This means being able to demonstrate cumulative gains against our baseline of £1.45 billion in 2005-06, £2.9 billion in 2006-07 and £4.35 billion in 2007-08.

Details of the specific initiatives which contribute to the joint DIUS/DCSF Gershon efficiency target are set out in the DfES Efficiency Technical Note, which is available on the DCSF's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk

My Department will be reporting progress towards the DfES Gershon target in the Departmental Report 2008. This is about to be published in May 2008. Progress towards the target was last reported in the DCSF Autumn Performance Report, published in December 2007.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201719]

Kevin Brennan: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20

working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 92 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 66, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Females

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of permanent staff in his Department and its predecessors were female in each year since 1997. [202854]

Kevin Brennan: The latest figures available (31 December 2007) show that my Department has 2,900 permanent staff, of which 1,693 are female representing 58 per cent. of all permanent staff.

The Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes of 28 June 2007. It is therefore not exactly comparable to its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), but figures for earlier years for DfES can be found in the Civil Service Statistics Archive:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of female permanent staff in his Department and its predecessors worked *(a)* part-time and *(b)* flexibly in each year since 1997. [202865]

Kevin Brennan: The latest figures available (31 December 2007) record 2,900 permanent staff in my Department, of which 1,693 are female (58 per cent. of all permanent staff). Of these 411 worked part-time, representing 24 per cent. of all female permanent staff.

As well as part-time working, the Department encourages a range of other flexible working patterns for all staff, including flexitime. The Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes of 28 June 2007. It is therefore not exactly comparable to its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, but it does build on a wide range of flexible working patterns first developed in the previous Department. Figures for earlier years can be found in the Civil Service Statistics Archive:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of female senior civil servants in his Department and its predecessors worked *(a)* part-time and *(b)* flexibly in each year since 1997. [202868]

Kevin Brennan: At 31 December 2007 my Department had 48 female staff (45.3 per cent.) out of a total of 106 staff in the senior civil service. Four out of the 48 women (8.3 per cent.) in the senior civil service work part-time. In addition to part-time working, other flexible arrangements are available to staff.

The Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Although not directly comparable due to staff changes, its predecessor was the Department for Education and Skills which had 131 staff in the senior civil service, of which 53 were female at December 2006. Seven out of 53 women (13.2 per cent.) worked part-time at that point. Figures for earlier years can be found in the Civil Service Statistics Archive:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp

Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to implement multi-dimensional treatment foster care across England; what assessment he has made of the pilot schemes; and if he will make a statement. [203828]

Kevin Brennan: Multidimensional treatment foster care (MTFC) is an intervention for looked after children and young people with complex needs who are already displaying severe levels of challenging and antisocial behaviour or who are experiencing high levels of placement instability. The first grant-funded pilot programmes were developed for adolescents and have been followed by those for younger children. The programme for adolescents is being rigorously evaluated through a randomised controlled trial (RCT). This is a complex evaluation as it is one of the first such trials to be conducted in services for looked after children and will report early in 2010. It will help us establish whether this treatment intervention is more effective and cost-effective than services as usual for this very vulnerable group of looked after children. Depending on the findings we will consider what further capacity should be developed to meet the needs of looked after children and young people. While waiting for the evaluation results we are conducting an annual audit of progress to provide feedback to pilot sites and learn from experiences to date.

Pre-school Education: Research

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on research related to the education of children under the age of five in each of the last five years. [202875]

Beverley Hughes: Figures on the Department's expenditure on research on children and families, for each financial year since 2003, are given in the following table. These figures incorporate expenditure on research related to the education of children under the age of five.

	£
2003-04	6,470,918
2004-05	10,709,782
2005-06	10,273,893
2006-07	12,073,234
2007-08	10,681,787

In 2007-08, approximately £5 million of this money was spent on research related to early years. Expenditure on research specifically related to the education of children under the age of five for earlier years could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what regulations govern the supply of *(a)* subsidised and *(b)* free lunches by schools; and if he will make a statement. [202813]

Kevin Brennan: There are no regulations governing the supply of subsidised school lunches.

Section 512ZA of the Education Act 1996, as amended by Section 201 of the Education Act 2002; The Education (Free School Lunches) (Prescribed Tax Credits) (England) Order 2003; and The Education (Free School Lunches) (State Pension Credit) Order 2005, covers free school lunches where a pupil has an entitlement.

Section 87 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 amended Sections 512ZA and 533 of the Education Act 1996, to change the duty placed on local authorities and school governing bodies to charge for school lunches into a power to charge. This enables them to provide school lunches free of charge if they choose to do so.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of margins of error in the collection of statistics on the take-up of school meals in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [203107]

(2) what methods have been used by the School Food Trust to assess the rate of take-up of school meals in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 to date; and if he will make a statement. [203108]

Kevin Brennan: We have made no estimate on the margin of error in the collection of statistics on the take-up of school meals in each of the last five years, as we do not collect these statistics. Since 2006, the School Food Trust (SFT) has undertaken an annual survey of local authorities, which has asked them to provide information about school lunch take-up, both primary and secondary, in their area.

Survey reports are available on the Trust's website at:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/doc_item.asp?DocId=34&DocCatId=1

(2006) and

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/doc_item.asp?DocId=55&DocCatId=1

(2007). The findings indicate the numbers of local authorities (LAs) and numbers of schools within those LAs to which the data on take up of meals relates.

The 2008 annual survey is under way. Questionnaires have been sent to all LAs in England. LAs have been asked to report take up data for all schools in their Authority. Results are expected in July.

Schools: Construction

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to reduce the administrative burden involved in the construction of new schools since 1997. [203733]

Jim Knight: This Department does not determine the legislative framework for the construction industry. We are now providing record amounts of capital support for investment in schools, a sevenfold increase in real terms between 1997 and 2010. A key aim in providing this investment is to ensure the best value for money for the taxpayer. Some systems must be in place to ensure proper Government control of public finance. Areas which we must address include that local authorities have a robust strategic vision for the delivery of education in their areas, that the investment we are providing supports this and is prioritised to need, and that procurement efficiencies are achieved. Our aim is to keep requirements to a minimum commensurate with proper management.

Measures we have taken to keep bureaucracy to a minimum include:

reduction of bid-based capital allocations, with significant amounts allocated to schools and authorities each year by simple needs-related formulae, with three year certainty to support robust local planning and prioritisation;

local authority formulaic funding delivered through the Single Capital Pot to give local flexibility;

reduction of the amount of asset management data we require from authorities;

improvement and standardisation of Private Finance Initiative procedures;

setting up Partnerships for Schools to support the Department and local authorities in the delivery of Building Schools for the Future;

a new standardised procurement vehicle and processes for Building Schools for the Future investment, which Partnerships for Schools have reviewed and refined in consultation with stakeholders including the private sector;

significant simplification of the delivery of funding for the voluntary aided sector;

publication of innovative design guidance on many aspects of school buildings and facilities, including currently the development of Standard Specification Layouts and Dimensions guidance for components in school construction.

At all times, it is our intention to keep the management requirements for all programmes to a minimum; to provide effective guidance and support where it is needed, and to learn and improve continuously. For instance, by effective engagement with authorities about to enter Building Schools for the Future, Partnerships for Schools has shortened by six months their lead-in time.

SEEVIC College

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on the development proposals for SEEVIC College in Castle Point; and if he will make a statement. [203644]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

SEEVIC college has prepared an application in principle for the redevelopment of its Benfleet campus. The application in principle is due to be submitted to the Learning and Skills Council local office before the end of May.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the minimum starting rate of pay was for a newly qualified teacher in each year since 1996, expressed in 2006-07 prices. [201043]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

Comparison of teachers' pay 1996 to 2007—minimum starting pay for a newly qualified teacher

		England and Wales		Inner London	
		Actual salary unadjusted for inflation (£)	*Percentage increase in real terms since 1 April 1996*	*Actual salary unadjusted for inflation (£)*	*Percentage increase in real terms since 1 April 1996*
1996	April	12,342	0.00	14,346	0.00
	December	12,462	0.97	14,484	0.96
1997	April	12,711	0.06	14,772	0.04
	December	12,873	1.34	14,961	1.32
1998	April	13,131	0.82	15,261	0.80
	December	13,362	2.59	15,528	2.57
1999	April	14,658	10.31	16,899	9.41
2000	April	15,141	12.35	17,457	11.44
2001	April	16,038	16.22	19,038	18.69
2002	April	16,599	16.64	19,704	19.12
	September	17,595	23.64	20,700	25.14
2003	April	18,105	23.64	21,522	26.44
2004	April	18,558	23.33	22,059	26.11
2005	April	19,023	23.75	22,611	26.54
	September	19,161	24.65	23,001	28.73
2006	September	19,641	24.36	23,577	28.43
2007	September	20,133	23.46	24,168	27.50

Source:
Deflator series: 28 March 2008, 2006-07 prices

Teachers: Training

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government is taking to provide training in dealing with bereaved children to teachers. [202855]

Kevin Brennan: The Qualified Teacher Status standards require that all trainees know how to identify and support children and young people whose progress, development or well being is affected by changes or difficulties in their personal circumstances and when to refer them to colleagues for specialist support.

Video Games: Violence

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the recommendations of the Byron review. [203236]

Kevin Brennan: The Government accepted all the recommendations made in the Byron Review report 'Safer Children in a Digital World,' published on 27 March 2008. In a written ministerial statement on the same date, we committed to producing a comprehensive action plan in response to the recommendations. In developing that plan, the cost of implementation, as well as lead responsibilities and key delivery milestones, will be given more detailed consideration. The action plan will be published in due course. Taking forward the Review's recommendations will not always involve new or discreet action. In many areas Dr. Byron recommended building e-safety into planned activities and services for which funding has already been agreed, for example, that existing information services for parents should include advice on e-safety.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will reply to question 200315 on trust schools, tabled on 22 April 2008 by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. [203956]

Jim Knight: I responded to parliamentary question 200315 on 30 April, *Official Report*, column 537W.

Young People: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to engage young people and members of the public in the preparation of the Youth Crime Action Plan. [203235]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The views of the public and young people are central to the development of the Youth Crime Action Plan. Young people are often the group most concerned about crime and are frequently victims.

In May we are planning a series of seminars with young people to engage with them and ask for views on the work being done on the Youth Crime Action Plan.

The Home Office and Design Alliance are also consulting young people about staying safe as part of their joint work on the Technology and Design Alliance. The alliance is working with Government to raise the profile of the role that design can play in combating crime and antisocial behaviour.

We have also been taking into account views of both young people and members of the public through qualitative research being undertaken by the Department for Children, Schools and Families exploring how best to tackle negative perceptions of young people. The results are being used to ensure the Youth Crime Action Plan tackles issues of importance to members of the public and young people and helps to address concerns regarding young people's behaviour.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which his Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203727]

Mr. Lammy: The Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies 2007" lists the number of people serving on the boards of public bodies as at 31 March 2007. These figures are broken down by individual Departments. As my Department was created by machinery of government changes in June 2007, its non-departmental public bodies are listed within those of its predecessor Departments, namely the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Education and Science.

For ease of reference, the relevant non-departmental public bodies are as follows:

British Hallmarking Council

Commission for Employment and Skills (Executive Non-Departmental Public Body and Company Limited by Guarantee)

Design Council

Higher Education Funding Council for England

Learning and Skills Council

National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts

Office for Fair Access

Research Councils

Student Loans Company

Technology Strategy Board

Council for Science and Technology

"Public Bodies 2007" can be downloaded from www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp. Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people aged *(a)* over 25 and *(b)* over 30 years enrolled on a first degree course in a higher education institution in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [202200]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007-08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

UK domiciled entrants[1] to first degree courses by age English higher education institutions, academic years 1997-98 to 2006-07

Academic year	*25 and under*	*26 to 30*	*Over 25[2]*	*Over 30[2]*	*All entrants*
1997-98	213,805	16,875	48,930	32,055	262,735
1998-99	210,985	15,530	46,475	30,950	257,460
1999-2000	212,465	14,100	43,900	29,800	256,365
2000-01	212,900	12,625	40,780	28,155	253,680
2001-02	223,035	13,080	43,520	30,445	266,555
2002-03	233,330	13,245	44,215	30,970	277,545
2003-04[3]	241,180	17,970	65,135	47,165	306,310
2004-05	245,215	18,805	67,570	48,765	312,785
2005-06	261,970	18,900	67,115	48,215	329,085
2006-07	250,300	17,335	60,680	43,345	310,980

[1] Includes entrants to both full-time and part-time courses.

[2] These columns contain double counting as entrants aged over 30 are shown in both.

[3] For years earlier than 2003-04, figures for the Open University have been excluded as they are not available separately for first degree entrants, only for all undergraduates. From 2003-04 onwards, figures for first degree entrants are available and have been included. Therefore, figures before 2003-04, and figures from 2003-04 onwards, cannot be directly compared.

Note:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Latest figures from UCAS, covering applicants to full-time undergraduate courses only, show that, after the small downturn in 2006, applicants who were accepted for entry in 2007 increased. For accepted applicants from the UK, figures show a rise of 5.5 per cent. to 364,500, with those from England showing a 6.1 per cent. rise to 307,000, the highest ever.

Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008, show as at the end of March, applicants to full-time undergraduate courses show a year-on-year rise of 5.5 per cent., with those from England up by 6.2 per cent.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will estimate the cost of raising the student loan repayment income threshold to £20,000 and introducing thresholds and rates of student loan repayments of *(a)* five per cent. on incomes of £20,000 to £29,999 and *(b)* 7.5 per cent. on incomes over £30,000; and if he will make a statement; [203154]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of raising the student loan repayment income threshold to £25,000 and introducing thresholds and rates of student loan repayments of *(a)* five per cent. on incomes of £25,000 to £29,999 and *(b)* 7.5 per cent. on incomes over £30,000; and if he will make a statement. [203155]

Bill Rammell: Introducing repayment thresholds of £20,000 and £30,000 with corresponding repayment rates of 5 per cent. and 7.5 per cent. would have an estimated one-off resource cost of £2 billion (for existing loans) and an ongoing resource cost of £700 million per year (for new loans).

Introducing repayment thresholds of £25,000 and £30,000 with corresponding repayment rates of 5 per cent. and 7.5 per cent. would have an estimated one-off resource cost of £3.2 billion (for existing loans) and an ongoing resource cost of £1.1 billion per year (for new loans).

The income threshold is one of the main features of the income contingent loan scheme. This protects borrowers when they need it as they only pay their loan back once they earn over the threshold. Borrowers currently repay nothing until they earn over £15,000. This strikes the right balance, making payments affordable to the individual and student loans affordable to the public purse. We are committed to maintaining the repayment threshold at £15,000 until 2010 when we will review it.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on how many occasions she visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204390]

Tessa Jowell: Since my appointment in June 2007,1 have visited Scotland once and will be visiting Northern Ireland next month. I plan to visit Wales in the near future.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of staff working for the Olympic delivery authority are *(a)* women and *(b)* men. [204122]

Tessa Jowell: As of March 2008 the percentage of women directly employed by the Olympic delivery authority was 47.8 per cent. and the percentage of men was 52.2 per cent.

Olympic Games 2012: Red Arrows

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has invited the Red Arrows to perform at the 2012 Olympics. [203808]

Tessa Jowell: It is not the job of the Government to make decisions about which organisations should perform at the 2012 Olympics. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games has the responsibility for deciding what to include in celebrations during the 2012 games. With four years to go, decisions are yet to be made on who will participate in the celebrations, but we want to make sure that they will be a spectacular showcase of Britain's best. I have made it clear many times that reports that the Government have banned the Red Arrows from being part of celebrations in 2012 are wholly without foundation.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181899]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 792-96W. New contracts entered into since that date are as shown in the following table.

Information on contracts entered into since 2005 but which were no longer current in December 2007 could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Reports are not necessarily produced for all consultancy commissions. The Department does not generally publish reports prepared by consultants that it has engaged.

Employment

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the performance has been of the City Strategy pilot programmes in improving employment and skills outcomes. [203349]

Mr. Timms: The evaluation of the City Strategy will consider the performance of the Pathfinders in improving employment and skills outcomes. The report is due in the autumn of 2009.

Income Support: Mortgages

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of recipients of income support mortgage interest (ISMI) were also *(a)* income support, *(b)* income-based jobseekers allowance and *(c)* pension credit recipients in each year since 1990; and what proportion of ISMI expenditure was on each group in each year since 1990, broken down by (i) parliamentary constituency and (ii) region; [196678]

(2) how many people on *(a)* income support, *(b)* income-based jobseekers allowance and *(c)* pension credit received income support mortgage interest in each year since 1995, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [196680]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available in the format requested. Recipient information is not available for pension credit. The available recipient information for income support and jobseeker's allowance has been placed in the Library. The requested information on expenditure is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed income support mortgage interest in each year between 1990 and 1995; at what cost; what the average payment was; and what the average length of claim was. [196679]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Income: Graduates

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of graduates was in each region of England in each year since 1997. [201560]

Mr. Timms: Average (median) weekly gross income for graduates is shown in the following table.

Median weekly gross income for graduates (3-year averages), by Government office region, 1998-99 to 2005-06, in 2005-06 prices

£

Government office region	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*
North-east	411	402	423	441	459	448
North-west	430	434	448	455	456	454
Merseyside, Yorks and Humberside	411	406	421	441	441	440
East midlands	426	439	433	433	443	461
West midlands	454	450	445	455	456	446
Eastern	470	480	488	496	497	497
London	476	495	506	504	486	500
South-east	485	504	509	507	509	502
South-west	414	428	441	444	447	438
Wales	414	404	425	415	415	404
Scotland	440	451	451	458	457	462
Northern Ireland					430	432

Notes:
1. The information shown is for the United Kingdom from 2002/03 onwards. Earlier years are Great Britain only. Qualifications data are not available before 1998-99.
2. The results are based on survey data so are subject to sampling variability.
3. Graduates include anyone with educational and vocational degree level qualifications, in line with established definitions.
4. Weekly income amounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.
5. Median incomes have been presented. We have used median rather than mean as a measure of average incomes because they are less influenced by extreme values.
6. Three year averages of median incomes are presented as single year estimates are considered too volatile. These figures have been adjusted to account for the effect of inflation. This is consistent with the presentation of median incomes in the Households Below Average Income Publication.
7. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors that align the FRS to Government office region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining response bias.

Source:
Family Resources Survey, 1998-99 to 2005-06

Jobcentre Plus

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance is given to Job Centres on responding to those seeking to advertise vacancies for jobs in the so-called sex industry; and if he will make a statement. [203724]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Leslie Strathie, dated 7 May 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the guidance given to Jobcentre Plus staff when responding to employers seeking to advertise vacancies in the so-called sex industry. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is obliged to provide a free public employment service to help people seeking work and employers fill their vacancies. As part of this, Jobcentre Plus advertises all kinds of vacancies, including those from within the adult entertainment industry, provided they comply with civil and criminal law. To refuse to advertise vacancies that comply with civil and criminal law would place us at significant risk of legal challenge. To put

this in context, adult entertainment vacancies make up less than 0.016% of all vacancies advertised by Jobcentre Plus.

Having said that, we recognise the sensitivities associated with working in the adult entertainment industry and have put in place a number of safeguards all of which are detailed in staff guidance to make sure customers are completely aware of the nature of specific vacancies and are able to make fully informed decisions about the suitability of a particular job. These include:

a strap line on the vacancy, stating it is unsuitable for people under the age of 18;

a detailed description of the vacancy and associated activities;

discussing these vacancies only with people who enquire about them or who have been employed previously within the industry; and

not obliging anyone to enquire about or apply for these type of vacancies (anyone is free to refuse to consider them without implications for their benefit).

These safeguards were strengthened recently by some additional checks for employers notifying vacancies where physical contact might be involved, for example escort work and working in a massage parlour or a sauna, to ensure that it is not of a sexual nature. These additional checks are as follows:

before a vacancy is advertised, employers must complete and return a statement, confirming the vacancy does not involve contact of a sexual nature;

once advertised, Jobcentre Plus will, as part of a routine 48-hour courtesy call to employers, confirm nothing illegal was subsequently found to be part of the job requirements;

Jobcentre Plus contacts people it knows have applied for such vacancies to see if anything illegal was subsequently found to be part of the job requirements;

the service is withdrawn from any employer and we will inform the police if we believe the employer is involved in the provision of an illegal service.

In addition to the above, if we receive a complaint from a jobseeker about the activities they have been asked to undertake, no further vacancies are accepted until an investigation into the exact nature of the work has been carried out. If it were found that an employer was involved in the provision of illegal activities, we would withdraw the service.

We take every care to make sure the vacancies we handle meet appropriate legal standards. Without a clear reason to believe a particular employer is engaged in anything unlawful, we are not able to refuse to handle their vacancies.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the performance of Jobcentre Plus in finding employment for those who had previously worked with salaries of £50,000 or higher. [202775]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. Jobcentre Plus does not categorise individuals by their previous salary when recording its performance in helping people back into work.

Personal Income

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average family income was in each region of England in each year since 1997. [201561]

Mr. Timms: Average (median) gross weekly income for families is shown in the following table.

Median weekly gross income for families (3-year averages), by Government office region, 1997-98 to 2005-06, in 2005-06 prices

£

Government office region	*1997-98 to 1999-2000*	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*
North-east	236	247	262	275	279	282	286
North-west	262	275	287	300	308	312	315
Merseyside, Yorks and Humberside	260	275	287	301	306	315	321
East midlands	284	290	306	314	328	333	335
West midlands	282	294	305	315	318	319	318
Eastern	341	357	374	387	386	385	388
London	311	333	350	368	372	373	381
South-east	359	380	396	407	411	419	421
South-west	299	310	322	337	346	356	363
Wales	251	256	268	281	295	305	309
Scotland	265	271	280	292	302	309	316
Northern Ireland	—	—	—	—	—	289	289

Notes:
1. The information shown is for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards. Earlier years are Great Britain only.
2. The results are based on survey data so are subject to sampling variability.
3. Weekly income amounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.
4. Median incomes have been presented. We have used median rather than mean as a measure of average incomes because they are less influenced by extreme values.
5. Three year averages of median incomes are presented as single year estimates are considered too volatile. These figures have been adjusted to account for the effect of inflation. This is consistent with the presentation of median incomes in the Households Below Average Income publication.
6. A family is defined as 'a single adult or a couple living as married and any dependant children'. From January 2006 same-sex civil partners are also included in the same benefit unit.
7. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors that align the FRS to Government office region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining response bias.

Source:
Family Resources Survey, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* the disability living allowance care component, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* the state pension and *(d)* bereavement benefit he estimates are living in other European economic area (EEA) states and Switzerland. [201444]

Mr. Plaskitt: The most recent available information is in the following table.

Cases in payment in the European economic area and Switzerland

	Number
Disability living allowance care component (at 4 October 2007)	110
Incapacity benefit (at 8 April 2008)	10,180
State pension (at 8 April 2008)	374,120
Bereavement benefits (at 8 April 2008)	1,055

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
DMS MOP scan

State Retirement Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer, net of savings in means-tested benefits and additional tax revenues, of paying a full basic state pension to each individual, regardless of contribution record, at the rate of the guarantee credit, from the age of *(a)* 68, *(b)* 69 and *(c)* 70 years of age from 2010; and if he will estimate in each case the cost in each of the following four years on the assumption that the pension was then indexed to earnings. [200641]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following table.

Estimated net additional annual cost of paying a full basic state pension to all individuals aged (a) 68 years or over, (b) 69 years or over, and (c) 70 years or over, regardless of their national insurance contribution records, at the rate of the guarantee credit, from 2010

	£ billion—2008-09 prices		
	(a)	*(b)*	*(c)*
2010	12	11	10
2011	13	12	11
2012	13	12	11
2013	14	13	11
2014	15	13	12

Notes:
1. Estimates have been rounded to the nearest £ billion and are presented in financial years (e.g. 2010 refers to the financial year 2010-11).
2. Estimates relate to individuals living in the United Kingdom.
3. The guarantee credit level has been defined as the standard minimum guarantee for a single pensioner with no additional premiums (i.e. currently £124.05 per week), increased by average earnings in future years. Treasury economic assumptions have been used to model earnings uprating.
4. The estimates are presented net of savings in income related benefits and additional tax revenues, which have been estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model.
Source:
DWP modelling

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Females

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding his Department is providing to support women's enterprise in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [203666]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are determined that we maximise the untapped economic dividend for the UK from increasing female entrepreneurship rates. The US has 20 per cent. more businesses per head than the UK. A significant proportion of this gap is explained by much lower rates of women's entrepreneurial activity in the UK. This goes to the heart of the UK's productivity and competitiveness.

This Department's funding for the delivery of support services for women's and other enterprises, is channelled through the Regional Development Agencies, via the Single Programme Budget, to enable them to achieve their regional priorities identified in their strategies, including supporting the development and growth of women's enterprise.

The RDAs are our key partners in promoting enterprise and we are working with them in implementing the measures on women's enterprise announced as part of the Government's Enterprise Strategy. Those measures include provision for: £12.5 million of Government capital through a women's investment fund; women's business centre pilots; enhanced mentoring support; a new national enterprise centre of expertise; and activity aimed at opening up procurement opportunities to women-owned businesses. More information on the Strategy is available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/enterprisestrategy

Carbon Emissions: Buildings

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of national aggregate carbon dioxide emissions emitted were attributable to energy consumption within buildings in each of the last five years; and what proportion of that figure comprised emissions from private households. [202996]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is provided in the following table. It is not possible to separate energy consumption for the purposes of heating and lighting in the industrial sector from energy consumption for other purposes (e.g. machinery, incineration). Therefore, the numbers given apply only to the commercial, public and residential sectors.

More details on the sources of UK CO_2 emissions can be found in The Annual Report to Parliament 2007.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total UK carbon dioxide emissions (million tonnes)	543.8	555.9	557.0	557.3	556.5
Emissions from buildings in commercial sector (million tonnes)	52.0	55.1	54.5	54.5	56.2
Emissions from buildings in public sector (million tonnes)	20.7	20.8	21.6	21.5	21.5
Emissions from buildings in the residential sector (million tonnes)	146.3	149.5	150.7	147.3	146.7
Total Building Emissions	219	225.4	226.5	223.3	224.4

The total CO_2 emissions from buildings accounted for about 40 per cent. of total UK CO_2 emissions (26.4 per cent. from the residential sector) in 2006.

Emissions figures are provided on an 'end user' basis, while emissions from power stations are allocated to the buildings in which the electricity generated is consumed.

Certification Officer: Pay

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people employed by the Office of the Certification Officer had salaries between *(a)* £20,000 to £30,000, *(b)* £30,000 to £40,000, *(c)* £40,000 to £50,000, *(d)* £50,000 to £60,000, *(e)* £60,000 to £70,000, *(f)* £70,000 to £80,000, *(g)* £80,000 to £90,000, *(h)* £90,000 to £100,000, *(i)* £100,000 to £110,000, *(j)* £110,000 to £120,000, *(k)* £120,000 to £130,000, *(l)* £130,000 to £140,000, *(m)* £140,000 to £150,000, *(n)* £150,000 to £160,000, *(o)* £160,000 to £170,000, *(p)* £170,000 to £180,000, *(q)* £180,000 to £190,000, *(r)* £190,000 to £200,000 and *(s)* over £200,000 in each year since it was established; and what the (i) mean and (ii) median salary of employees was in each such year. [198496]

Mr. McFadden: The Certification Office has provided the following details dating back to financial year 2001-02. They do not contain information relating to the Certification Officer himself because he is an office holder. Details of his remuneration are published each year in his annual report.

The Certification Office was established in 1975. It is not possible to provide details for the period 1975 to 2000-01 without incurring disproportionate cost.

	£20,000-£30,000	£30,001-£40,000	£40,001-£50,000	£50,001 +
2001-02	6	1	1	0
2002-03	5	2	1	0
2003-04	3	3	1	0
2004-05	3	5	1	0
2005-06	3	5	1	0
2006-07	3	5	1	0
2007-08	3	4	2	0

	Median	Mean
2001-02	26,872	26,402
2002-03	27,997	27,905
2003-04	26,983	26,670
2004-05	32,158	29,526
2005-06	25,633	25,699
2006-07	26,282	27,068
2007-08	33,873	31,423

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Environment Protection

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what account the Export Credits Guarantee Department takes of *(a)* the social and environmental impacts of proposed projects, *(b)* the domestic policies of the partner government and *(c)* the partner government's international commitments on (i) climate change, (ii) biodiversity and (iii) sustainable development when determining its commitment to projects; and if he will make a statement. [201446]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD's business principles state that ECGD will:

"screen applications for cover to identify, and then analyse, any adverse or beneficial environmental, social or human rights aspects of relevant projects"

and

"determine the acceptability of applications for cover, taking account of appropriate external standards".

The implementation of the business principles in relation to environmental issues is described further in ECGD's case impact analysis process (CIAP), which is published on the ECGD website. The CIAP states that:

"In processing applications for support, ECGD will also take account of applicable (UK) Government policies and initiatives on the environment, sustainable development, and human rights."

Host country requirements are taken into consideration in processing applications for ECGD support. ECGD will normally seek to apply the higher of relevant domestic requirements or international standards.

http://www.ecgci.gov.uk/ecgd_case_impact_analysis_process-may_2004-4.pdf

Legal Profession

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of the contracts awarded by his Department to *(a)* Christine Lee and Co. solicitors, *(b)* Ward Hadaway solicitors, *(c)* Dean and Dean solicitors and *(d)* Lawford Kidd solicitors was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [201634]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that the value of contracts awarded by the Department to the providers listed in each of the last five years was:

	Provider	*Contract value (£)*
2006-07	Ward Hadaway	4,877
2007-08	Ward Hadaway	22,532
2004-05	Lawford Kidd	2,250

Where a supplier is not listed there has been no expenditure. The Department has not made any payments to Christine Lee and Co. solicitors and Dean and Dean solicitors.

London Development Agency: Mandate Communications

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments the London Development Agency made to Mandate Communications and AS Biss in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202250]

Mr. McFadden: My Department does not hold records of the payments that London Development Agency makes to individual companies.

Migrant Workers: Pay

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department takes against employers who offer housing to immigrant workers and deduct more than the legally permissible offset from their salaries as payment. [200081]

Mr. McFadden: Under the national minimum wage legislation, accommodation is the only benefit in kind which can count against the minimum wage. The amount that can count towards minimum wage pay is set by Government, and is currently £4.30 per day, rising to £4.46 in October 2008.

Arrears are due when an employer has not paid minimum wage as a result of a failure to properly apply the accommodation offset. We are strengthening our enforcement provisions through the Employment Bill, including providing for a penalty for all employers found to have underpaid their workers and a fairer system of calculating arrears.

Motor Vehicles: Fuels

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of litres, to the nearest million, of vehicle fuel sold in the UK in each of the last five years. [203813]

Malcolm Wicks: HM Revenue and Customs publish monthly clearances data (quantities released for consumption) on their website, http://www/uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil. Their latest figures are in the table as follows.

Consumption of Road Fuel

Million litres

	Motor Spirit	*DERV*
2003	27,389	21,047
2004	27,025	22,160
2005	25,608	23,201
2006	24,629	24,117
2007 (provisional)	23,892	25,129

Note:
Biofuels are not included
Source:
HM Revenue and Customs

OECD: Seoul

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which Ministers will attend the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's internet governance meeting in Seoul in June 2008. [202895]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* A UK Minister will not be attending the OECD Ministerial Conference on the Future of the Internet Economy in Seoul. The UK delegation will be led by Mr. David Hendon, Head of Business Relations, BERR.

Ordnance Survey

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the primary role of Ordnance Survey's Shareholder Executive is. [203429]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The Shareholder Executive is responsible for advising Ministers from the Department for Communities and Local Government directly on the management of their shareholding and financial interests in Ordnance Survey, and managing the relationship with Ordnance Survey on all shareholder and financial issues.

Post Offices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the datasets on road distance to a post office or sub-post office for lower layer super output areas provided by the Post Office to assist the compilation of the Index of Deprivation for *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2004. [202822]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office branches there were in each local authority area in England in each year since 1996-97. [202966]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Closures

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of post offices proposed for closure are run from *(a)* leasehold and *(b)* freehold properties. [202867]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Renewable Energy: Housing

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what maximum grant was available to individual households under the low carbon buildings programme for (A) solar photovoltaics, *(b)* wind turbines, *(c)* small hydro, *(d)* solar thermal hot water, *(e)* ground source heat pumps, *(f)* biomass room heaters and stoves and *(g)* wood-fuelled boiler systems in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [202192]

Malcolm Wicks: The maximum grants available to individual households under the low carbon grants scheme in 2006 and 2007 were as follows:

Level of grant up to 31 March 2007

Product	*Percentage grant available (Percentages relate to eligible costs)*
Solar Photovoltaics	To 31 March 2007:Maximum 3,000 per kWp installed up to a maximum of £15,000 subject to an overall 50 per cent. limit of the installed cost (exclusive of VAT).
Wind turbines	Maximum £1,000 per kW installed, up to a maximum of £5,000 subject to an overall 30 per cent. limit of the installed cost (exclusive of VAT)
Small hydro	Maximum £1,000 per kW installed, up to a maximum of £5,000 subject to an overall 30 per cent. limit of the installed cost (exclusive of VAT)
Solar thermal hot water	Maximum £400 regardless of size subject to an overall 30 per cent. limit (exclusive of VAT)
Ground/water/air source heat pumps	Maximum £1,200 regardless of size subject to an overall 30 per cent. limit (exclusive of VAT)
Bio-energy:	
1 .Room Heater/Stoves automated wood pellet feed	Maximum £600 regardless of size subject to an overall 20 per cent. limit (exclusive of VAT)
2. Wood fuelled boiler systems	Maximum £1,500 regardless of size subject to an overall 30 per cent. limit (exclusive of VAT)

The grant levels from May 2007 to date are as follows:

Levels of grant post 31March 2007

Technology	*Maximum Amount of Grant*
Solar photovoltaics	Maximum of £2,000 per kW of installed capacity, subject to an overall maximum of £2,500 or 50 per cent. of the relevant eligible costs, whichever was the lower.
Wind turbines	Maximum of £1,000 per kW of installed capacity, subject to an overall maximum of £2,500 or 30 per cent. of the relevant eligible costs, whichever was the lower
Small hydro	Maximum of £1,000 per kW of installed capacity, subject to an overall maximum of £2,500 or 30 per cent. of the relevant eligible costs, whichever was the lower
Solar thermal hot water	Overall maximum of £400 or 30 per cent. of the relevant eligible costs, whichever was the lower.
Ground source heat	Overall maximum of £1,200 or 30 per cent. of the relevant eligible costs, whichever was the lower.
Automated wood pellet fed room heaters/stoves	Overall maximum of £600 or 20 per cent. of the relevant eligible costs, whichever was the lower.
Wood fuelled boiler	Overall maximum of £1,500 or 30per cent. of the relevant eligible costs, whichever was the lower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what maximum grant will be available to individual households under the low carbon buildings programme for *(a)* solar photovoltaics, *(b)* wind turbines, *(c)* small hydro, *(d)* solar thermal hot water, *(e)* ground source heat pumps, *(f)* biomass room heaters and stoves and *(g)* wood-fuelled boiler systems in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [202193]

Malcolm Wicks: From May 2007 to date under the low carbon buildings programme household stream the current maximum grant per household is £2,500. The specific grant levels are set out on the low carbon buildings programme website:

http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/how/householders/

There are no plans to change the grant cap or the grant levels. The programme has been extended to June 2010 or until funds are exhausted whichever comes sooner. We will continue to monitor uptake to the domestic stream going forward.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's expenditure on grants for households under the low carbon buildings programme for *(a)* solar photovoltaics, *(b)* wind turbines, *(c)* small hydro, *(d)* solar thermal hot water, *(e)* ground source heat pumps, *(f)* biomass room heaters and stoves and *(g)* wood-fuelled boiler systems was in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [202194]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the low carbon buildings programme household stream the total grants paid in 2006 was £1,012,021 and £5,218,922 in 2007.

Further information and breakdown of grants paid for each technology is available on the low carbon buildings programme website:

http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/info/stats/

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many grants were allocated to households by his Department under the low carbon buildings programme for *(a)* solar photovoltaics, *(b)* wind turbines, *(c)* small hydro, *(d)* solar thermal hot water, *(e)* ground source heat pumps, *(f)* biomass room heaters and stoves and *(g)* wood-fuelled boiler systems was in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [202195]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the low carbon buildings programme household stream the total value of grant committed in 2006 was £4,560,706 and £2,662,791 in 2007.

Further information and breakdown of grants paid for each technology is available on the low carbon buildings programme website

http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/info/stats/

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's budget for household grants under the low carbon buildings programme for *(a)* solar photovoltaics, *(b)* wind turbines, *(c)* small hydro, *(d)* solar thermal hot water, *(e)* ground source heat pumps, *(f)* biomass room heaters and stoves and *(g)* wood-fuelled boiler systems is for (i) 2008 (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [202196]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 1 has a £36 million budget over three years. We did not set yearly allocations or specific amounts of funding for individual technologies.

The programme has been extended to June 2010 (or until funds are exhausted whichever comes sooner) with the remaining £10 million budget covering the range of technologies.

JUSTICE

Convictions: Genetics

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to review the cases of those convicted of serious crimes on the basis of low template DNA evidence; and if he will make a statement. [201981]

Maria Eagle: The Government have no plans to review convictions involving the use of low template DNA evidence. A review of low template DNA techniques, commissioned by the Independent Forensic Science Regulator and led by Professor Brian Caddy, Emeritus Professor of Forensic Science at Strathclyde university, was published on 11 April. The overall finding of the review is that the science supporting the delivery of low template DNA profiling is sound. Any individual who alleges that he or she is the victim of a miscarriage of justice may apply to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, an independent body, for it to consider the case. The Commission has the power to refer any cases where there is a real possibility that the conviction or sentence will not be upheld to the appropriate court, which will treat the reference as a new appeal.

Courts

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider the merits of introducing a mechanism to measure levels of public confidence in the court system. [203313]

Maria Eagle: The British Crime Survey (BCS) has been used to measure public confidence in aspects of the Criminal Justice System since 2001. In October 2007, new questions were introduced into the survey which will provide information about public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the courts.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 555W, on crime: victims, what form the recruitment exercise for a commissioner for victims and witnesses took; what steps his Department has taken to make an appointment since 2006; and what future options for the role of commissioner are under consideration. [203163]

Maria Eagle: The recruitment exercise for the role of Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses was carried out according to the code of practice for public appointments and used an executive recruitment agency (Veredus) who specialise in public appointments. This included public advertisements in relevant publications and an executive search targeting individuals perceived to be of the right calibre for the role.

We are still undertaking analysis to inform options for the role. The Office For Criminal Justice Reform is consulting with a number of relevant stakeholders (including the Victims Advisory Panel) and will be putting advice up to Ministers in due course.

Criminal Proceedings: Genetics

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned and *(b)* plans to commission on the use of DNA mixtures evidence in court proceedings; [201451]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to the courts on the use of low-tech DNA evidence in cases before the courts. [201452]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has not commissioned any research on the use of DNA mixtures evidence in criminal proceedings, and has no plans to do so. Nor is it our practice to issue guidance to the courts on how to evaluate the admissibility of different kinds of evidence. However, the Independent Forensic Science Regulator will shortly be publishing a full response to the independent review "A Review of the Science of Low Template DNA Analysis", which recommended the development of guidance on DNA technology for the use of participants in the criminal justice system generally. Furthermore, guidance on low copy number DNA evidence was issued jointly by the Crown Prosecution Service, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Interim Forensic Science Regulator to Crown prosecutors on 28 January 2008. It is available on the CPS website at:

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/lcn_checklist.html.

Departmental Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) operated *(a)* by and *(b)* on behalf of his Department comply (i) with the Data Protection Act 1998, (ii) the CCTV Code of Practice published by the Information Commissioner and (iii) relevant BSI standards. [203246]

Mr. Wills: All CCTV systems installed in Ministry of Justice buildings are required to comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act and the CCTV Code of Practice published by the Information Commissioner, which has been adopted by the Ministry. MOJ CCTV systems are not currently required to conform with recently published BSI standards on digital CCTV recording, which are not a mandatory requirement. The Ministry's policy on CCTV compliance is reviewed bi-annually; the next review is due to be undertaken in December 2008.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 3 April 2008 to the hon. Member for Fareham, *Official Report*, columns 1170-74W, on departmental contracts, to which property or properties the expenditure on GVA Grimley related; and what the conclusion of the non-domestic rating challenge was. [202814]

Maria Eagle: The expenditure on GVA Grimley related to their work, during 2007-08 in challenging National Non Domestic Rating assessments on the following properties:

Barnet Magistrates Court
Bristol Greyfriars
Bury County Court
Cambridge Magistrates Court
HMCS NE Regional Directors Office
Manchester County Court
Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court
N and W Greater Manchester MCC Offices
Northampton Bulk Issue Centre
Nuneaton County Court
Royal Courts of Justice
Stourbridge County Court.

The rating challenge exercise resulted in savings in rates payments of £567,908 recovered in 2007-08, with continuing savings of £418,303 per annum.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201721]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports

containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central government departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via my Department's website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 89 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 176, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to 'information available by other means' are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Figures prior to 9 May 2007 are for requests made to the DCA.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2012W, on departmental public participation, how many responses were received for each *(a)* survey, *(b)* questionnaire and *(c)* other service. [203102]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is detailed in the following table.

		Type		
Name of the survey etc	*Name of firm carrying out work*	*(a) Survey*	*(b) Questionnaire*	*(c) Other*
The Courts Experiences of Adults with Mental Health problems: Learning Disabilities and Limited Mental Capacity	British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)	—	—	26 Face to face interviews; 10 Telephone interviews; 16 questionnaires by email; Plus extensive desk research.
Victims Advocates Pilot Scheme Evaluation	British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)	—	—	74 interviews
Awareness of and development of offender management across prison and probation staff	Burns and Co.	36 responses	—	—
Focus groups—Victims of Crime leaflet	Central Office of Information plus Burns and Co	—	—	62 participants over ten focus groups
Health and Social Care Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (paper survey)	Distribution through Binleys. Survey conducted by Ipsos MORI	4,381 responses	—	—
The Pro Bono Work of Legal Executives	ECOTEC Research and Consulting	1,021 responses	—	—
Evaluation of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Social Security and Child Support Tribunals	ECOTEC Research and Consulting	—	—	98 Qualitative interviews at current as of 30 April
Salford Community Justice Initiative Evaluation	Evidence Led Solutions	—	—	156 Qualitative interviews
Tribunal Service Customer Satisfaction Survey	FDS International Ltd	2,672 responses	—	—
Testing of language and understanding of departmental strategic objectives with general public and staff	GfK NOP through Central Office of Information Communications	500 responses	—	48 participants over six focus groups
Sentencing and rehabilitation	ICM (via omnibus questions)	3,013 responses	—	—
HMCS Court User survey	Ipsos MORI	11,519 responses	—	—
Witness and Victim Experience survey	Ipsos MORI	30,936 responses in 2007-08	—	—
Inform, persuade, remind research	Ipsos MORI	6,513 responses	—	—
Nottingham Community Justice public opinion poll	Ipsos MORI	1,804 responses	—	—
Survey on Tackling and Preventing Sexual	Ipsos MORI	6,066 responses	—	—
Tribunal Service Customer Expectation survey	Ipsos MORI	730 responses	—	—
Customer Satisfaction questionnaire	Ipsos MORI	—	Nil responses. This questionnaire has not yet been used in the field.	—
Beacon Approach Evaluation	Ipsos MORI	54 responses	—	—
General Public Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (Capibus survey)	Ipsos MORI	1,781 responses	—	—
Legal Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (online survey)	Ipsos MORI	540 responses	—	—
Office of Public Guardian and Court of Protection Customer survey	Ipsos MORI	2,229 responses	—	—

Name of the survey etc	Name of firm carrying out work	Type (a) Survey	(b) Questionnaire	(c) Other
Constitution Directorate tracker survey	Ipsos MORI	7,712 responses	—	—
Opinion Research, Merthyr Tydfil Community Justice Project	Lamajo	154 responses	—	35 participants in focus groups
Dedicated Drug Court Pilots: A Process Report	Matrix Knowledge Group	—	—	13 participants in focus groups; 78 structured interviews
Reporting restrictions in the Coroners Courts	Opinion Leader Research (OLR)	—	—	16 participants in one workshop
MOJ Staff Satisfaction Pulse Survey	Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) International	4,165 responses	—	—
Stocktake of attitudinal data	PA Consulting, Ipsos MORI	—	—	No responses—desk research
Public consultation for Community Justice Leicester	Perpetuity	—	—	Consultation. Further details currently unavailable
HM Prison Service Annual Staff survey	Snap survey	24,630 responses	—	—
Tracker survey of local residents, Community Justice Centre, North Liverpool	Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS)	—	2532 responses	—
Public Perception of Risk and Protection from Serious and Violent Crime	Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS)	—	—	32 participants in focus groups
Preparatory facilitation for MOJ Engagement Study Working Group	Towers Perrin-ISR	—	—	25 participants in working group
Staff Opinion survey/Engagement Study/Culture Audit for all MoJ staff	Towers Perrin-ISR	Nil responses. This survey has not yet been used in the field.	—	—
Employment tribunal mediation pilot	Westminster University, fieldwork sub-contracted to British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)	143 responses	—	—

Electoral Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plans to change the voting system used to elect hon. Members. [203137]

Mr. Wills: The Government published the Review of Voting Systems in January 2008 which considers the experience of the new voting systems introduced in the United Kingdom since 1997. The Review forms part of the continuing debate on electoral reform, and at this point the Government are not seeking to change the electoral system for the House of Commons.

Electronic Voting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer from the hon. Member representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 451W, on electronic voting, which recommendations of the Electoral Commission on e-counting his Department has undertaken to implement. [202815]

Mr. Wills: The Government are currently reviewing the Electoral Commission's recommendations in response to the Gould report concerning the future use of e-counting. Along with the valuable lessons which we have learnt from previous e-counting pilots, these will help to inform our future policy for e-counting.

Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006

Mr. Alan Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions under the Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006 have been made since its introduction; and what the outcome of those prosecutions has been. [203336]

Maria Eagle: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 778W to the hon. Member for Teignbridge (Richard Younger-Ross).

The Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006 came into force on 20 February 2007. We do not yet have prosecution figures covering 2007. We would expect the number of prosecutions to be small. Any act involving violence against emergency workers would be covered by the general law on assault and the new offence is limited to obstruction only.

Peterborough Prison: Foreigners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals are detained at HMP Peterborough. [203683]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of March 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 155 foreign national prisoners (101 male and 54 female) detained in Peterborough prison.

This information is available at the following website where it is updated quarterly.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custody-mar08.pdf

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Service: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are employed in HM prison service in England and Wales. [203300]

Maria Eagle: As at 31 January 2008 there were 52,621 directly employed staff within HM Prison Service establishments in England and Wales, including privately managed prisons.

Prisoners Transfer: Young Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been issued by the Youth Justice Board to secure units on the transfer of 15 year old boys into prisons. [203071]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board issued revised placements guidance in 2004 to all under-18 custodial establishments and youth offending teams. It includes a transfer protocol, which specifies that placements of boys aged 15 and older in secure children's homes and secure training centres should be regularly reviewed to assess whether they still require the level of support provided by those establishments.

Boys aged 15-17 are normally placed in young offender institutions unless they are assessed as requiring the different environment and level of support that a secure training centre or a secure children's home offers.

Prisoners: Females

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the recommendations to member states contained in paragraphs 19 to 29 of the European Parliament's resolution of 13th March 2008 on the particular situation of women in prison and the impact of the imprisonment of parents on social and family life; what plans he has to implement the recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [201294]

Maria Eagle: The recommendations will be considered in the context of implementation of the commitments set out in the Governments response to the Corston report, and within a joint priority review by the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice to support the children of offenders to achieve better outcomes.

Prisoners: Internet

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on blogging by prisoners. [203938]

Maria Eagle: There is no policy on prisoners contributing to blogs. Prisoners do not have direct access to the internet, other than under controlled circumstances or for specific educational purposes, which is via controlled connectivity to secure NOMS accredited sites. NOMS policy on prisoner communications does, however, set out restrictions on material that prisoners may send if it is intended for publication.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many suicides within *(a)* adult prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007 took place within the first seven days of custody; and how many prisoners who committed suicide in their first seven days in custody had on one or more of those seven days been housed in police or court cells. [203195]

Maria Eagle: There were six self-inflicted deaths[1] in adult prisons[2] within the first seven days of prison custody in 2006 and 10 in 2007. There was also one self-inflicted death of an adult prisoner in each of 2006 and 2007 in prisoner escort custody prior to arrival in prison. There were no such deaths in young offender institutions in either 2006 or 2007.

Information regarding time spent in court or police custody prior to first reception in prison is not held centrally.

[1] The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time-to-time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

[2] Includes deaths where prisoner transferred to hospital following initial incident.

Prisons: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Government has budgeted for the construction of new Titan prisons. [203299]

Mr. Hanson: The cost of construction of the Titan prisons has been estimated to be around £350 million each at 2007-08 prices.

The cost of building and operating the Titan prisons, which will be post 2011 spending review period, will be subject to the usual comprehensive spending review processes.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much prisons in England and Wales received for work done by prisoners from *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector organisations in each of the last five years; and what assessment he has made of the potential to increase prison revenue from such sources. [203783]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the value of both internal and external sales from work done by prisoners in public sector prisons in England and Wales. While the Prison Service would seek to receive revenue where possible it should also be acknowledged that prison industries have a number of other objectives including purposeful activity as well as skills and employment opportunities.

	Internal sales[1]	£000 External sales[2]
2007-08	30,560	6,010
2006-07	27,571	6,370
2005-06	31,334	[3]
2004-05	37,919	[4]3,673
2003-04	40,782	[4]4,370

[1] The total sales value of goods and services provided using prisoners for internal consumption, including sales to the Ministry of Justice. The general reduction over the period is predominantly due to the phased implementation of hard charging.
[2] Total sales revenue from predominantly private sector organisations.
[3] Reliable data are not available for 2005-06 due to a system failure.
[4] Data extracted from internal (prison industry) monitoring and recording systems.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking in response to the comments of HM Inspector of Prisons that four out of five mental health in-reach teams in prisons feel unable to respond adequately to the range of needs they face. [203196]

Maria Eagle: The report, The mental health of prisoners thematic (HMIP, 2007) made a number of recommendations about improving mental health care in prisons. The Department of Health is preparing its response to all these recommendations.

Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for shoplifting in each of the last three years. [202975]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2631W.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

The information requested covering cautions, convictions and penalty notices for disorder (PNDS) for the years 2004-06 is provided in the following table.

Number of offenders cautioned, defendants found guilty and penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for shoplifting, England and Wales 2004-06[1,2]

	Cautioned	Found guilty	PNDs issued
2004	41,165	69,542	[3]2,072
2005	44,012	64,076	21,997
2006	45,054	58,536	38,772

[1] The cautions and found guilty data are provided on the principal offence basis. PND data is a count of all penalty notices for disorder issued during the year.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The offence of retail theft (goods of value under 200) was added to the PND scheme on 1 November 2004.
Source:
Court proceedings and penalty notices for disorder databases—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Young Offender Institutions: Education

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offender institutions provide discrete *(a)* personal, *(b)* social and *(c)* health education courses. [203555]

Mr. Hanson: An audit of education in secure accommodation carried out by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in 2002 identified the need for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs), and funding was obtained by the YJB to ensure that each Young Offenders Institution has the support of a SENCO. This requirement is incorporated into the Offenders Learning Journey (Juvenile) which sets out the delivery of learning and skills services to young offenders in custody in England. The Learning and Skills Council are also currently undertaking a review process which will ascertain the level and range of educational need for offenders in each custodial and community setting, thus informing the range and types of provision to be commissioned. We expect the reviews to include an analysis of the level of need for learners with learning difficulties and disability.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to reduce the number of people under the age of 21 years in prison for non-violent offences. [203303]

Mr. Hanson: While sentencing in any individual case is a matter entirely for the court, the Government believe that prison should be reserved for serious and dangerous offenders. Other offenders are normally better punished in the community. The Government introduced the generic community order for adults in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and provisions in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill currently going through Parliament will create the youth rehabilitation order, a broadly similar sentence for juveniles. Such orders enable the courts to choose from a wide range of requirements so as to effectively meet the circumstances of the offence and the offender. They should enable the courts to have greater confidence in community sentences and to use them instead of custody in all cases other than when custody really is the only punishment that will meet the circumstances of the offence.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the website www.knowyourlimits.gov.uk in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception. [200376]

Mr. Byrne: We are unable to provide costs split out on a monthly basis for the www.knowyourlimits.gov.uk website, but can provide annual costs as follows on table 1.

Maintenance of this website is the shared responsibility of Department of Health and Home Office Know Your Limits Campaign teams and does not require a full time member of staff to maintain.

From the end of June 2008, the website will no longer exist, and visitors will be redirected to a new NHS units awareness site, which will be funded by the Department of Health. Therefore the forecast for 2008-09 is based on an estimated monthly maintenance fee for April, May and June and may be subject to change.

Table 2 shows the numbers of unique users there have been to this website by month.

Table 1

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
2006-07	50,000
2007-08	29,000
2008-09 (budget forecast)	7,250

Table 2

Year by month	*Unique users*
2006	
October	10,684
November	16,087
December	8,273
2007	
January	18,714
February	36,772
March	15,354
April	4,240
May	5,558
June	4,356
July	3,759
August	3,799
September	5,492
October	8,563
November	33,384
December	18,158
2008	
January	45,119
February	75,387
March	9,458

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how substantial suffering, as set out in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is measured; and what guidance her Department has issued to inspectors on the determination of substantial suffering. [202129]

Meg Hillier: Guidance on severity assessment is set out in paragraphs 5.40 to 5.49 of the Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321). The Guidance sets out the factors that must be taken into account by inspectors in exercising their professional judgment in determining and advising on severity, whether mild, moderate or substantial.

British Nationality: Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received recent representations from the government of the Irish Republic on the grant of British passports and citizenship to Irish citizens living in the United Kingdom. [203438]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The issue has been raised by individuals from both Houses, but there have been no recent representations from the government of the Irish Republic on this matter.

Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to implement the National CCTV Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [203247]

Mr. Coaker: A National CCTV Strategy Programme Board has been established. The programme board is reviewing the recommendations of the strategy and Ministers will have the opportunity to approve the work of the Board later this year.

Crime Prevention: Lancashire

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she was consulted in relation to the policy of Lancashire Police of giving free buttered toast to late night revellers to prevent violence; whether she plans to issue guidance to other police forces on the policy of giving food to deter potential troublemakers; and if she will make a statement. [202115]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* There was no discussion between the Home Office and Lancashire Police on this issue. This is an operational matter for Lancashire Police. The Home Office has no plans to issue guidance on giving food to deter potential troublemakers.

Crime: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* administration and *(b)* sanction detections there were in relation to crimes in London in each of the last 10 years. [192045]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is given in the following table.

Within the recorded crime statistics, administrative detections are referred to as non-sanction detections. The number of non-sanction detections decreased significantly in 2006-07. This reflects a significant shift away from the use of non-sanction detections, where no further action is taken. Sanction detections are now viewed as the preferred measure, providing a more meaningful comparison of police performance.

Some forces have made a policy decision to significantly limit their use of non-sanction detections in recent years. The greater focus on sanction detections was further emphasised by the move to the use of the sanction detection rate within the police performance assessment framework.

Recorded crime statistics for London region (metropolitan police & city of London)

Table 1: Offences detected by the police in London region: 1997

	Offences recorded	Total detections	Sanction detections	Non-sanction detections
1997	796,862	203,692	[1]—	[1]—
1997-98	783,416	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Not available
[2] No detections data available for this period

Table 2: Offences detected by the police in London region: 1998-99 to 2001-02

	Offences recorded	Total detections	Sanction detections	Non-sanction detections
1998-99	941,398	206,536	[1]—	[1]—
1999-2000	1,059,822	168,694	[1]—	[1]—
2000-01	1,001,861	150,759	121,290	29,469
2001-02	1,066,606	151,521	127,783	23,738

[1] Not available

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. This will have had an effect on the number of detections recorded. Figures from that date are not comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences detected by the police in London region: 2002-03 to 2006-07[1]

	Offences recorded	Total detections	Sanction detections	Non-sanction detections[2]
2002-03	1,089,903	159,717	138,810	20,907
2003-04	1,070,177	166,008	137,303	28,705
2004-05	1,023,806	217,142	151,359	65,783
2005-06	992,557	236,223	181,684	54,539
2006-07	929,752	199,630	197,449	[3]2,181

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[2] The large increases between 2002-03 and 2005-06 were as a result of positive action by the Metropolitan Police Service to increase the number of non-sanction detections. The issue of new rules from 1 April 2007, have severely limited the number of incidences when they can be applied. The Metropolitan police had anticipated these changes, issuing their own policy during 2006-07 that limited the use of non-sanction detections, this leading to a significant reduction in non-sanction detection numbers for that year.
[3] It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detections rates over time are not fully comparable. From April 1 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Departmental Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the extent to which closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) operated *(a)* by and *(b)* on behalf of her Department comply (i) with the Data Protection Act (ii) the CCTV Code of Practice published by the Information Commissioner and (iii) relevant BSI standards. [203253]

Mr. Coaker: No overall assessment has been made. It is the responsibility of the individual operators of the systems to ensure that they comply with the Data Protection Act, the CCTV code of practice and the relevant BSI standards.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which her Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203728]

Mr. Byrne: The Cabinet Office publication 'Public Bodies 2007' lists the number of people serving on the boards of public bodies as at 31 March 2007. These figures are broken down by individual Departments. 'Public bodies 2007' can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp.

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to her Department's budget. [192116]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continues to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

The Home Office has a number of development programmes which support gender equality. These include Leaders of the Future—a positive action leadership programme aimed at the most talented staff. The aim is to prepare participants and maximise their potential for entry into the Senior Civil Service (SCS). It is designed for women, minority ethnic, disabled, lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) colleagues. More broadly a key aim of the new talent management system introduced for all Grade 6 and 7 staff is to improve SCS diversity.

The department has also established a Diversity Strategy Programme Board to bring together Directors from across the business areas and agencies. The Board closely monitors progress and delivery of our 3-Year Diversity Strategy. We ensure that when selecting search and recruitment consultants that they have a good track record on diversity and produce a diverse long list. We also run events targeting black and minority ethnic, women, disabled and LGB staff into the Home Office at a senior level.

We also fund on an ad hoc basis Home Office Women (HOW). HOW is the network for women and all those interested in women's issues across the Home Office Group.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [200490]

Mr. Byrne: Recruitment costs in the Home Department do not fall to a central budget. The Home Office frequently uses the same companies for recruitment services as it does for other services, including for

example the employment of temporary staff. Although it can identify the total paid to those companies, it cannot separately determine the costs solely relating to recruitment without disproportionate costs.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time posts in her Department were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in each of the last three years. [200664]

Mr. Byrne: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new profiles have been added to the national DNA database since September 2007, broken down by police force; and if she will make a statement. [179094]

Meg Hillier: It is understood that this question refers to the number of crime scene sample profiles added to the National DNA Database, since a separate question has been asked on the number of people added in each month from October 2007 to date.

The number of crime scene samples added in each of the six months from October 2007 to March 2008 for all police forces is shown in the following table.

NDNAD—Crime scene profiles loaded by force and by month October 2007-March 2008

	2007			2008			
Force	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*Total October 2007-March 2008*
Avon and Somerset	121	97	103	126	97	106	650
Bedfordshire	35	33	26	25	27	29	175
British Transport	42	40	21	36	54	70	263
Cambridgeshire	41	53	30	43	27	68	262
Cheshire	107	94	105	100	95	91	592
City of London police	4	11	6	9	6	3	39
Cleveland	23	33	14	29	26	32	147
Cumbria	36	34	24	38	30	33	195
Derbyshire	72	50	38	67	58	51	336
Devon and Cornwall	55	58	42	72	79	46	352
Dorset	27	25	18	30	34	20	154
Durham	43	24	29	38	33	32	199
Dyfed-Powys	12	6	8	7	4	7	44
Essex	82	92	81	75	101	104	535
Gloucestershire	10	15	11	11	11	16	74
Greater Manchester police	312	297	199	260	226	269	1,563
Gwent	50	40	27	49	43	48	257
Hampshire	85	98	74	93	93	89	532
Hertfordshire	47	49	41	52	56	49	294
Humberside	96	96	51	59	65	96	463
Kent	173	199	142	195	217	191	1,117
Lancashire	119	105	91	132	127	88	662
Leicestershire	61	42	51	29	54	54	291
Lincolnshire	44	42	41	24	31	41	223
Merseyside	129	134	118	133	114	132	760
Metropolitan police	634	691	488	709	566	649	3,737
Norfolk	52	55	40	75	56	71	349
North Wales	67	55	49	73	52	49	345
North Yorkshire	21	20	17	26	22	42	148
Northamptonshire	94	65	42	54	66	61	382
Northumbria	104	88	80	89	104	139	604
Nottinghamshire	67	46	47	78	47	33	318
South Wales Constabulary	93	73	68	115	81	87	517
South Yorkshire	91	92	52	88	105	116	544
Staffordshire	88	73	57	70	62	58	408
Suffolk	56	39	34	44	40	30	243
Surrey	70	73	60	87	73	65	428
Sussex	182	166	101	160	158	137	904
Thames Valley	130	110	102	147	139	140	768
Warwickshire police	32	19	23	18	19	13	124
West Mercia	78	61	64	55	67	59	384
West Midlands	234	182	160	180	196	208	1,160
West Yorkshire	173	175	128	181	205	207	1,069
Wiltshire	23	31	23	13	23	13	126
Other non-England and Wales forces[1]	146	679	143	137	227	186	1,518

NDNAD—Crime scene profiles loaded by force and by month October 2007-March 2008

	2007			2008			
Force	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*Total October 2007-March 2008*
Total	4,261	4,550	3,169	4,131	4,016	4,128	24,255

[1]Eight Scottish forces, PSNI, Jersey, Guernsey, Ministry of Defence Police etc.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of DNA profiles added to the DNA database in each year since it became operational are from samples taken at crime scenes; and if she will make a statement. [188155]

Meg Hillier: The following table gives the numbers of crime scene profiles added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) in each year of its operation, and what percentage these were of the total profiles added that year.

	Crime scene profiles loaded	*Percentage of total profiles loaded (crime scene profiles and subject sample profiles)*
1995-96	1,887	5.37
1996-97	5,084	6.01
1997-98	12,886	9.11
1998-99	13,202	4.94
1999-2000	18,037	7.63
2000-01	28,593	6.75
2001-02	40,984	7.53
2002-03	61,431	11.17
2003-04	60,226	11.25
2004-05	59,247	10.21
2005-06	68,774	8.77
2006-07	55,217	7.10
April 2007 to February 2008	44,946	7.83
Total	470,514	8.50

Notes:

1. The subject sample profile data used in the final column are for all United Kingdom police forces (i.e. subject sample profiles taken by police forces in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Jersey etc.)

2. The data on crime scene sample profiles are for all United Kingdom police forces, but do not include all Scottish crime scene sample profiles. Crime scene sample profiles taken by Scottish police forces are loaded to the Scottish DNA Database in the first instance. Only those crime scene profiles for which no match is found on the Scottish DNA Database are added to the NDNAD.

Identity and Passport Service: Fishburn Hedges

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments the Identity and Passport Service made to Fishburn Hedges in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202253]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service has not made any payments to Fishburn Hedges during any of the last five years.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the cost of introducing identity cards for foreign nationals in the UK. [203941]

Mr. Byrne: The latest estimate for the cost of introducing identity cards for foreign nationals is planned to be published on 6 May 2008 in the document 'Identity Cards Act 2006—Section 37 Report to Parliament about the Likely Costs of the ID Cards Scheme'. The document will be available to Members in the parliamentary Libraries.

This report is published every six months and contains the most recent estimate for the costs of introducing identity cards for foreign nationals.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are taken in relation to illegal immigrants detained in police or immigration custody in circumstances where there is a lack of capacity within the immigration detention estate. [202609]

Mr. Byrne: Detainees can be held in police cells or Short Term Holding Facilities for a maximum of five nights, or seven nights if removal directions are in place. Within this period they are expected to be removed from the United Kingdom, transferred into suitable long term accommodation, or released.

Alternatives to detention are considered for those who are released from detention such as reporting conditions which restricts an individual's place of residence, employment or occupation, physically reporting to a police or an immigration reporting centre and electronic monitoring.

Internet: Security

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions her Department has had with the European Commission on cyber-security; and what contribution the UK is making to Commissioner Reding's proposed cyber-defence plan. [201674]

Mr. Coaker: My Department, as well as officials from several other Departments, have regular discussions with Commission officials on aspects of cyber-security. This year officials have taken part in workshops on the electronic aspects of the programme for European Critical Infrastructure protection. Officials have also worked with Commission officials on the ongoing work of the European Network and Information Security Agency and attended workshops to discuss ideas for the proposed Communication on Critical Information Infrastructure Protections that will be issued by Mrs Reding's Directorate of the Commission.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State will

reply to the letter, dated 25 March 2008, about visas for Chernobyl children. [203391]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The International Group of the UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 29 April 2008.

Offenders: Deportation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are being held in prisons in Wales beyond the end of their sentence awaiting deportation, broken down by *(a)* prison and *(b)* country of origin. [203589]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be provided through the examination of individual case files only at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency advised in her letters of 20 November and 17 December 2007 to the Home Affairs Committee that there were 1,500 foreign national prisoners detained upon completion of their sentence. She also advised during her appearance before the Committee on 15 January this year that a significant number of foreign national prisoners come from Jamaica, Nigeria, China and Vietnam.

Peterborough Prison: Foreigners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals held at HMP Peterborough were deported on completion of their sentence in each month since March 2005; and if she will make a statement. [203682]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost in order to ascertain the number of individuals that had been detained at HMP Peterborough.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average *(a)* number of police officers and *(b)* proportion of each police force employed in speed enforcement on roads was in each of the last five years. [198453]

Mr. McNulty: While information is collected on the number of police officers primarily employed in the function 'traffic', it is not possible to show the number or proportion of police officers specifically employed in speed enforcement as this is only part of their duties.

The available data are for the number of full-time equivalent police officers primarily employed in the function 'traffic', and are given in the following table.

The deployment of police officers to speed enforcement activity is an operational matter for individual chief officers and police authorities.

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose primary function is Traffic[2] from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-006	2006-007
Avon and Somerset	216	222	228	215	148
Bedfordshire	75	80	80	81	68
Cambridgeshire	85	99	101	99	96
Cheshire	194	200	194	85	91
Cleveland	64	73	—	61	72
Cumbria	107	110	108	111	114
Derbyshire	107	121	116	119	110
Devon and Cornwall	192	198	211	215	225
Dorset	91	86	82	81	80
Durham	111	119	108	105	100
Essex	241	242	243	243	231
Gloucestershire	62	66	67	73	67
Greater Manchester	406	392	359	342	352
Hampshire	248	246	244	240	237
Hertfordshire	150	151	149	149	145
Humberside	123	119	225	181	100
Kent	104	—	122	116	109
Lancashire	198	187	190	197	184
Leicestershire	92	95	85	77	72
Lincolnshire	90	89	96	102	100
London, City of	24	24	28	24	23
Merseyside	125	119	115	138	150
Metropolitan Police	583	592	1029	603	611
Norfolk	120	121	107	112	110
Northamptonshire	70	71	65	63	63
Northumbria	245	253	165	167	172
North Yorkshire	151	138	101	97	99
Nottinghamshire	—	121	133	134	139
South Yorkshire	180	127	134	141	143
Staffordshire	50	49	58	28	35
Suffolk	68	72	76	80	77
Surrey	108	110	107	99	87
Sussex	164	163	163	160	169

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose primary function is Traffic[2] from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-006	2006-007
Thames Valley	259	259	245	236	237
Warwickshire	103	103	93	97	93
West Mercia	292	115	117	116	129
West Midlands	384	405	393	401	383
West Yorkshire	320	314	317	343	324
Wiltshire	91	96	93	—	89
Dyfed Powys	136	105	141	143	136
Gwent	93	96	96	102	95
North Wales	115	114	76	81	98
South Wales	243	245	243	243	252

1. This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
2. Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. The does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role her Department has in determining the fees charged by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) for licences; what plans she has to meet SIA representatives to discuss licence fees; and what assessment she has made of the effects of SIA licence fees on the security industry. [203578]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State, by using section 8(7) of the Private Security Industry Act 2001, sets the fee to be paid on application for an SIA licence. The fee is set by means of a statutory instrument made by negative resolution procedure. The current fee of £245 has been in place since 6 April 2007 and was set under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Licences) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/810).

The SIA is required to be self-funding. The fee is not set to make a profit. Home Office officials are regularly in touch with the SIA to discuss a range of financial matters including the licence fee.

Consideration of the impact of SIA licence fees on the security industry was contained in a regulatory impact assessment published in January 2007 in connection with an increase in the fee from £190 to £245 (Updated Regulatory Impact Assessment to Reflect New Licence Application Fee and Charges published in January 2007 and updated in March 2007 http://www.the-sia.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8179D6CO-8B48-47CA-937D-DFB6A5COFF01/0/sia_licence_fee_ria.pdf).

Wildlife: Crime

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will instigate a joint review by the police and prosecution inspectorates into wildlife crime in England. [202680]

Mr. Coaker: The work of the Inspectorates, both singly and jointly, is increasingly subject to risk assessment to ensure that it's targeted on those issues that are of greatest concern to the public and to local communities. In recent years this has included such issues as tackling serious and organised crime and addressing counter terrorism.

Wildlife crime is not one of the subjects for joint inspection agreed for 2008-09. The topics for inspection were subjected to comprehensive consultation and then prioritised through risk assessment. The issue of wildlife crime did not feature from any of the consultees and was not part of the long list for 2008-09 or the final list that has been decided.

For the Home Secretary to instigate inspection activity associated with wildlife crime it would have to be clear which aspects meet the threshold and how inspection would add value or improve performance in this issue.

The Home Office has recently announced that it will contribute £150,000 per year for three years to the National Wildlife Crime Unit. Government officials will be working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the NWCU to monitor the outcomes achieved through this funding.

HEALTH

Allergies

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the adequacy of the training undertaken by *(a)* medical students and *(b)* GPs in the diagnosis and treatment of allergies. [203190]

Ann Keen: The Department is not responsible for setting curricula for health professional training. Each University determines their own curriculum in the light of recommendations from employers and the regulatory bodies. However, we do share a commitment with statutory and professional bodies that all health professionals are trained, so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high quality health service to all groups of the population with whom they deal, whatever their condition.

Breast Cancer

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the relative prevalence of breast cancer among *(a)* black and *(b)* white women; and if he will make a statement. [201960]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold information on the relative prevalence of breast cancer among black women and white women. We are, however, working on models of assessing prevalence and we are developing techniques that will allow us to assess prevalence broken down by ethnic minority grouping.

Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the summary of the 2004 to 2007 national cancer peer review process. [201947]

Ann Keen: A copy of the Handbook for the National Cancer Peer Review Process has been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of expansion in cancer screening programmes on demand for the services of pathology laboratories; and what steps he is taking to monitor the capacity of Government laboratories to support such screening. [202736]

Ann Keen: The extensions to the national health service cancer screening programmes outlined in the "Cancer Reform Strategy" are national requirements within the "Operating Framework. For the NHS in England 2008-09" as set out in "Operational Plans 2008-09 to 2010-11 (Implementing the 2008-09 Operating Framework, National planning Guidance and 'vital signs'.)", published on 31 January 2008. Primary care trust (PCT) operational plans will need to reflect the requirements, including the demand for the services of pathology laboratories. It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their PCTs, local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate cancer screening services for their local populations, including appropriate pathology services.

The Independent Review of NHS Pathology Services in England, chaired by Lord Carter of Coles, was set up in 2005, and published an interim report in 2006. The review is expected to make recommendations which build on those in its interim report, for example on the configuration of pathology services, workforce modernisation and information technology connectivity, to achieve greater efficiency and enable pathology services to meet increasing demand.

Cancer: Urinary System

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1454W, on cancer: urinary system, whether the Kent Cancer Network has agreed an Improving Outcomes Guidance implementation plan with the NHS Cancer Action Team; and if he will make a statement. [201625]

Ann Keen: Kent Cancer Network has submitted a urological cancer improving outcomes guidance (IOG) implementation plan to the National Health Service Cancer Action Team (CAT). The plan is not yet fully compliant with the IOG and discussions between the CAT and Kent Cancer Network are ongoing.

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished episodes of care relating to carbon monoxide poisoning were provided by the NHS in the latest year for which figures are available. [202891]

Dawn Primarolo: The Information Centre for health and social care holds data on the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) to hospital in which the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis of "T58 Toxic effect of carbon monoxide".

There were 626 FCEs in 2006-07.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he plans to use to deliver free vascular checks to 40 to 74 year olds. [201484]

Ann Keen: On 1 April 2008, the Department published "Putting Prevention First", copies of this publication are available in the Library. This outlined the initial analysis which has confirmed that a programme to reach everybody between the ages of 40 and 74, to check their vascular risk and provide them with an individual assessment, would be both clinically and cost effective.

The next step is to develop an implementation and delivery programme with key stakeholders. Stakeholders will play a crucial role in helping to formulate proposals for the vascular check programme. We expect that general practice will have an important role in delivery but other organisations, such as pharmacies, are also likely to be involved.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on services for children and young people with myalgic encephalopathy of the closure of specialist units in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* the Lister hospital, Stevenage and *(c)* St. Thomas's hospital, London; and if he will make a statement. [201831]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the impact on services for children and young people by the closure of these specialist units. Local health bodies have a duty to commission health and social care services to meet the needs of their local population, including those living with chronic fatigue syndrome/ myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to *(a)* ensure implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines on the treatment of myalgic encephalopathy (ME) published in August 2007, *(b)* reduce the time taken to diagnose ME, *(c)* increase the allocation of funds for research into ME and the delivery of effective care and treatment, *(d)* reduce

inconsistencies in levels of ME care across primary care trusts and *(e)* assess the availability of services to (i) children and (ii) adults with ME. [201832]

Ann Keen: Health professionals are expected to use their clinical judgement taking into account best practice and existing clinical guidelines, including those produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), to provide the most appropriate treatment for the individual living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).

Diagnosis for CFS/ME can be prolonged as there is no specific test for this condition and other diseases with similar symptoms must be ruled out before a diagnosis can be made. The NICE guidance provides a list of medical tests that should be used to rule out other conditions.

The Medical Research Council is responsible for allocating funding for medical research, and does not ring-fence funding for specific conditions. Funding for individual research proposals is based on an assessment of the quality of each proposal by an independent panel. Local health bodies are responsible for commissioning health and social care services to meet the needs of their local population living with CFS/ME.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure primary care trusts meet the recommendations of the new guidelines on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome produced in August 2007 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; [202244]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the time taken to diagnose myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome. [202245]

Ann Keen: Health professionals are expected to use their clinical judgment taking into account best practice and existing clinical guidelines, including those produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), to provide the most appropriate treatment for the individual living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).

Diagnosis for CFS/ME can be prolonged as there is no specific test for this condition and other diseases with similar symptoms must be ruled out before a diagnosis can be made. The NICE guidance provides a list of medical tests that should be used to rule out other conditions.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects to publish the National Service Framework for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; and if he will make a statement; [203817]

(2) whether he plans to include diagnostic testing for chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder in the proposed NHS Health MOTs; and if he will make a statement; [203818]

(3) what his estimate is of the financial assistance needed for primary care trusts in England to meet the requirements of the proposed National Service Framework for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; and if he will make a statement; [203819]

(4) what guidance he plans to give to primary care trusts on incorporating an awareness campaign for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in local pharmacy contracts; and if he will make a statement. [203820]

Ann Keen: The Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) External Reference Group is finalising its advice to Ministers on the proposed markers of good practice from prevention through to end of life care. This advice will then be considered by Ministers and options developed for implementation. This will include options for diagnostic testing, considering how best we can utilise services provided by pharmacies to improve the care of people with COPD and estimates of the financial assistance needed to implement the recommendations. We plan to publish our conclusions by the end of 2008.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to address the regional variations in the promotion of screening for bowel cancer. [202737]

Ann Keen: It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their primary care trusts, local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate cancer screening services for their local populations, including the promotion of local screening services.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of units of dental activity in England carried forward to 2008-09 from 2007-08. [202925]

Ann Keen: This information is not available. For dental activity reporting purposes the year 2007-08 has not yet ended. Dental providers have until the end of May to submit all their activity reports for activity delivered during 2007-08.

Dental Services: Children

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of schoolchildren in England between the ages of six and nine who have received treatment as part of a screening programme since his Department's guidance on dental screening (inspection) was issued in January 2007; what the effect on expenditure on salaried primary dental care resources or equivalent was in England as a result of implementing this guidance; and if he will make a statement. [202827]

Ann Keen: One of the reasons why the National Screening Committee advised that dental screening in schools should be discontinued was that a large randomised

controlled trial demonstrated that school dental screening was ineffective in reducing levels of untreated dental disease and increasing attendance at dental practitioners. Information is not held centrally from which we could make an estimate of the number of children which continue to be screened, but we understand that most primary care trusts have ceased to undertake screening. We did not make this change in policy to cut costs. Our guidance recommends that the resources freed up be used to reduce inequalities in oral health by, for example, boosting the capacity of salaried dental services to reduce waiting times for special needs groups or for those children and adults who are unable to receive treatment through general dental services.

Dental Services: Contracts

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the number of dental contracts allocating units of dental activity (UDAs) awarded in England since their introduction; and how many contract holders did not reach their targets for UDAs in 2007-08. [202826]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of contracts awarded is not available in the requested format and could only be made available in this format at disproportionate cost. Information is available on the number of whole and part year contracts initially agreed in April 2006 at the start of the new dental system and on the number of contracts which ran for the whole year period of 2006-07. This information is set out in the following table.

Contracts	*Numbers*
Contracts agreed in April 2006[1]	8,377
Contracts which were live for the whole of 2006-07[2]	7,990

[1] Source Department of Health
[2] Source NHS Business Services Authority Dental Services Division.

Information on the number of contracts that delivered less than the activity contracted for in 2007-08 is not available. For dental activity reporting purposes the year 2007-08 has not yet ended. Dental providers have until the end of May to submit all their activity reports for activity delivered during 2007-08.

Dental Services: Negligence

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many actions for clinical negligence have been brought against dentists doing NHS work in each year since 2005. [202017]

Ann Keen: The information requested is in the following table and was supplied by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA). The data only covers claims made against NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts or primary care trusts providing dentistry; information is not held centrally relating to dentists working under independent contracts.

Number of claims against NHS employed dentists by notification year to the NHSLA

NHSLA notification year	*Number*
2005-06	42
2006-07	44
2007-08	60
Total	146

Dental Services: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve access to NHS dentistry in Stroud constituency; and if he will make a statement. [201483]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud to the written answer I gave him on 24 April, *Official Report*, column 2168W.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which his Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203729]

Ann Keen: The Cabinet Office publication "Public bodies 2007" lists the number of people serving on the boards of public bodies as at 31 March 2007. These figures are broken down by individual Departments. Copies of "Public bodies 2007" are available in the Library and also at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp.

Diabetes: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on implementing the NHS Diabetes National Service Framework in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [202435]

Ann Keen: Responsibility for implementing the Diabetes National Service Framework rests with the national health service, and it is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission services that meet the needs of their local population.

Screening for diabetic retinopathy was a target in the Diabetes National Service Framework and has been included in the operating framework for the NHS in England 2008-09. Where (PCTs) are failing to deliver the standard set for diabetic retinopathy, they are obliged to agree recovery plans with their strategic health authorities to ensure improvement. From February 2008, Peterborough PCT began offering screening to all people with diabetes to national standards.

Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust: Cleaning Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to *(a)* Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust and *(b)* East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust for deep cleaning. [195139]

Ann Keen: All trusts were required to submit and agree costed deep clean plans with primary care trusts in their area by 14 December 2007 and this process has been monitored and assessed by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

As set out in the written ministerial statement given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 93-94WS, information provided by SHAs shows that they have all made available the funding they promised for the programme. Further information on the implementation of the deep clean of the national health service is available from SHAs.

Eating Disorders: North West

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the *(a)* need for and *(b)* (i) current and (ii) planned future provision of treatment of eating disorders in each primary care trust in the North West. [202214]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Decisions on the planning and provision of treatment for eating disorders are a matter for individual primary care trusts (PCTs). Financial allocations are made directly to individual PCTs as these organisations are best placed to know the needs of the communities they serve and to commission services accordingly.

Embryonic Stem Cells

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many embryonic stem cells exist in the United Kingdom; and how much expenditure has been incurred in acquiring them. [202389]

Dawn Primarolo: We assume that the hon. Member's question refers to embryonic stem cell lines. The Department does not hold information on how many animal embryonic stem cell lines there are in the United Kingdom. As of the beginning of April 2008, 63 human embryonic stem cell lines had been deposited with the UK stem cell bank (UKSCB). The UKSCB does not pay to acquire these lines.

Eyesight: Testing

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the factors influencing the take-up rate of free sight tests for people aged 60 and over; and if he will take steps to increase the take-up rate; [203193]

(2) when he last met national professional and representative optical bodies to discuss free sight tests for people aged 60 and over. [203194]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made an assessment of the factors influencing the take-up rate of free national health service sight tests for people aged 60 and over or met with the national professional and representative optical bodies to discuss free sight tests for people aged 60 and over. Sight tests continue to increase from 4.1 million sight tests for those aged over 60 in 2003-04 to 4.5 million sight tests for those aged over 60 in 2006-07.

General Practitioners: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether payments made by primary care trusts to general practitioners as part of the Access Directed Enhanced Services payments system are based on per head of population registered on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) system. [200891]

Mr. Bradshaw: Payments made by primary care trusts to primary medical care contractors under the improved access scheme directed enhanced service, are based on per head of practice population registered on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) system.

General Practitioners: Public Participation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of those registered on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) were surveyed as part of the GP patient survey, Your doctor, your experience, your say access survey in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08, broken down by primary care trust. [200890]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2006-07, the first year of the general practitioner (GP) patient survey, 9.8 per cent. of patients registered on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) were invited to take part in the GP patient survey. The breakdown by primary care trust (PCT) is shown in the following table.

The survey data for 2007-08 is currently being processed by Ipsos MORI, the appointed survey provider, and remains restricted and unavailable until official publication by the Information Centre for health and social care. Publication has been confirmed for the week commencing 14 July 2008.

Percentage of patients registered on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) surveyed in the GP patient survey 2006-07 by PCT

PCT name	Registered population	Distributed surveys	Percentage (registered population/distributed population)
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	327,779	33,537	10.2
Barking and Dagenham PCT	178,197	30,599	17.2
Barnet PCT	344,581	50,183	14.6
Barnsley PCT	261,936	26,948	10.3
Bassetlaw PCT	115,689	5,771	5.0
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	178,469	16,524	9.3
Bedfordshire PCT	394,989	30,512	7.7
Berkshire East PCT	380,919	30,631	8.0

Percentage of patients registered on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) surveyed in the GP patient survey 2006-07 by PCT

PCT name	Registered population	Distributed surveys	Percentage (registered population/distributed population)
Berkshire West PCT	436,117	30,701	7.0
Bexley Care Trust	207,699	20,294	9.8
Birmingham East and North PCT	460,911	61,286	13.3
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	167,670	20,444	12.2
Blackpool PCT	170,987	12,598	7.4
Bolton PCT	291,180	37,481	12.9
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	342,142	30,948	9.0
Bradford and Airedale PCT	531,448	62,480	11.8
Brent Teaching PCT	326,590	59,494	18.2
Brighton and Hove City PCT	288,158	31,404	10.9
Bristol PCT	431,329	37,890	8.8
Bromley PCT	302,618	30,299	10.0
Buckinghamshire PCT	486,305	31,652	6.5
Bury PCT	188,327	21,740	11.5
Calderdale PCT	203,488	16,721	8.2
Cambridgeshire PCT	572,193	42,992	7.5
Camden PCT	253,642	38,999	15.4
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	447,024	26,754	6.0
Central Lancashire PCT	460,618	53,067	11.5
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	278,587	45,015	16.2
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	550,731	43,961	8.0
County Durham PCT	581,477	39,433	6.8
Coventry Teaching PCT	352,455	39,096	11.1
Croydon PCT	337,807	44,884	13.3
Cumbria PCT	537,940	47,668	8.9
Darlington PCT	104,469	5,081	4.9
Derby City PCT	281,249	22,884	8.1
Derbyshire County PCT	713,240	55,016	7.7
Devon PCT	746,379	55,924	7.5
Doncaster PCT	328,163	24,560	7.5
Dorset PCT	403,090	26,027	6.5
Dudley PCT	304,568	27,112	8.9
Ealing PCT	341,707	62,986	18.4
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	527,054	35,822	6.8
East Lancashire PCT	401,009	38,567	9.6
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	320,427	20,838	6.5
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	345,630	23,923	6.9
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	761,313	65,270	8.6
Enfield PCT	271,978	45,175	16.6
Gateshead PCT	227,066	19,708	8.7
Gloucestershire PCT	577,468	46,918	8.1
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	238,615	13,974	5.9
Greenwich Teaching PCT	259,476	41,332	15.9
Halton and St. Helens PCT	343,398	30,393	8.9
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	183,915	26,630	14.5
Hampshire PCT	1,214,618	84,033	6.9
Haringey Teaching PCT	266,162	53,536	20.1
Harrow PCT	208,096	20,105	9.7
Hartlepool PCT	104,314	8,100	7.8
Hastings and Rother PCT	191,325	20,303	10.6
Havering PCT	241,372	32,153	13.3
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	315,211	66,114	21.0
Herefordshire PCT	183,004	12,063	6.6
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	227,434	20,482	9.0
Hillingdon PCT	254,322	34,620	13.6
Hounslow PCT	251,117	45,002	17.9
Hull PCT	287,979	33,021	11.5
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	147,030	9,641	6.6
Islington PCT	241,764	36,971	15.3
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	164,509	44,142	26.8
Kingston PCT	161,582	19,700	12.2
Kirklees PCT	398,952	47,863	12.0
Knowsley PCT	178,646	19,288	10.8

Percentage of patients registered on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) surveyed in the GP patient survey 2006-07 by PCT

PCT name	*Registered population*	*Distributed surveys*	*Percentage (registered population/distributed population)*
Lambeth PCT	344,309	47,237	13.7
Leeds PCT	769,537	68,064	8.8
Leicester City PCT	329,012	41,459	12.6
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	605,224	38,454	6.4
Lewisham PCT	279,555	41,649	14.9
Lincolnshire PCT	751,226	55,244	7.4
Liverpool PCT	543,478	73,107	13.5
Luton Teaching PCT	192,024	24,331	12.7
Manchester PCT	596,951	84,191	14.1
Medway Teaching PCT	257,349	40,750	15.8
Mid Essex PCT	328,559	26,478	8.1
Middlesbrough PCT	164,649	13,797	8.4
Milton Keynes PCT	216,672	19,486	9.0
Newcastle PCT	290,486	24,418	8.4
Newham PCT	311,286	64,975	20.9
Norfolk PCT	744,826	55,382	7.4
North East Essex PCT	319,211	27,807	8.7
North East Lincolnshire PCT	172,288	19,395	11.3
North Lancashire PCT	356,600	20,434	5.7
North Lincolnshire PCT	173,501	12,658	7.3
North Somerset PCT	200,501	12,666	6.3
North Staffordshire PCT	215,632	22,607	10.5
North Tees PCT	191,211	15,574	8.1
North Tyneside PCT	217,804	17,790	8.2
North Yorkshire and York PCT	773,032	54,639	7.1
Northamptonshire PCT	653,547	44,424	6.8
Northumberland Care Trust	336,229	25,543	7.6
Nottingham City PCT	324,298	43,908	13.5
Nottinghamshire County PCT	654,976	50,688	7.7
Oldham PCT	247,646	25,138	10.2
Oxfordshire PCT	596,465	42,571	7.1
Peterborough PCT	166,242	18,226	11.0
Plymouth Teaching PCT	261,429	26,610	10.2
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	182,045	19,447	10.7
Redbridge PCT	234,835	31,737	13.5
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	159,596	11,904	7.5
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	179,273	17,185	9.6
Rotherham PCT	266,319	21,244	8.0
Salford PCT	260,179	35,318	13.6
Sandwell PCT	342,027	38,710	11.3
Sefton PCT	296,752	31,032	10.5
Sheffield PCT	542,219	58,818	10.8
Shropshire County PCT	294,199	25,323	8.6
Solihull PCT	207,680	18,018	8.7
Somerset PCT	517,491	41,180	8.0
South Birmingham PCT	387,551	42,208	10.9
South East Essex PCT	331,284	40,846	12.3
South Gloucestershire PCT	217,505	17,157	7.9
South Staffordshire PCT	580,641	56,810	9.8
South Tyneside PCT	168,988	14,548	8.6
South West Essex PCT	395,357	53,663	13.6
Southampton City PCT	241,405	18,503	7.7
Southwark PCT	293,245	46,869	16.0
Stockport PCT	284,478	33,070	11.6
Stoke on Trent PCT	290,022	28,131	9.7
Suffolk PCT	580,591	38,312	6.6
Sunderland Teaching PCT	314,301	32,297	10.3
Surrey PCT	1,064,244	76,547	7.2
Sutton and Merton PCT	363,391	36,604	10.1
Swindon PCT	190,519	17,719	9.3
Tameside and Glossop PCT	243,529	20,931	8.6
Telford and Wrekin PCT	157,431	14,209	9.0
Torbay Care Trust	145,592	10,658	7.3

Percentage of patients registered on the National Health Application Infrastructure Service (Exeter) surveyed in the GP patient survey 2006-07 by PCT

PCT name	Registered population	Distributed surveys	Percentage (registered population/distributed population)
Tower Hamlets PCT	239,528	36,931	15.4
Trafford PCT	224,714	17,024	7.6
Wakefield District PCT	368,085	12,448	3.4
Walsall Teaching PCT	271,949	36,696	13.5
Waltham Forest PCT	248,913	51,905	20.9
Wandsworth PCT	287,208	43,196	15.0
Warrington PCT	194,869	17,525	9.0
Warwickshire PCT	524,093	37,289	7.1
West Essex PCT	266,554	21,607	8.1
West Hertfordshire PCT	530,176	21,445	4.0
West Kent PCT	643,922	38,974	6.1
West Sussex PCT	793,053	58,106	7.3
Western Cheshire PCT	260,407	50,567	19.4
Westminster PCT	238,159	43,370	18.2
Wiltshire PCT	433,583	33,069	7.6
Wirral PCT	366,046	29,388	8.0
Wolverhampton City PCT	272,179	37,121	13.6
Worcestershire PCT	537,364	37,121	6.9
England	53,126,550	5,219,763	9.8

Genito-Urinary Medicine

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons developing Payment by Results in the area of sexual health services was not chosen as a priority, as stated in his Department's document, Options for the Future of Payment by Results 2008-09 to 2010-11 response to consultation, published on 24 January 2008. [201336]

Mr. Bradshaw: The response to the consultation that the Department published on 24 January is a summary of responses, and not a detailed work programme. This is made clear in the document.

The identification of five priority areas (mental health, community services, critical care, urgent and emergency care and long term conditions) for future work by the Payment by Results (PbR) team was based on responses received to the consultation and available development resources. The five areas referred to each received more than 24 responses identifying them as priorities. Sexual health services received only a fraction of this level of support.

However, the Government set a target to offer everyone who needs it an appointment at a genito-urinary medicine clinic within 48 hours by March 2008. In February 2008, 97 per cent. of patients were offered an appointment to be seen, and 84 per cent. were seen within 48 hours. In May 2005, only 45 per cent. were offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours.

Although sexual health was not highlighted as a national priority for PbR in the recent consultation exercise, this does not preclude local work being undertaken. The consultation encouraged local areas to apply to be development sites to pilot and evaluate local currencies for services outside the scope of the national tariff.

As a result, there are two developments sites looking at sexual health issues. One project, supported by the Department's sexual health team, is working to develop a tariff for HIV outpatients. The other project involves Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust investigating appropriate funding models for contraception services.

Further information on the work of these particular development sites can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/NHSFinancialReforms/DH_083408

Health Services: Essex

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated for public relations in the budgets of each primary care trust in Essex in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [202766]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* This is matter for local primary care trusts (PCTs). There is no separate allocation made to PCTs for public relations, and information on the budgets for public relations for each of the primary care trusts in Essex is not held centrally.

Revenue allocations are made to PCTs on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. It is for PCTs to determine how best to use the funding allocated to them, and to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this matter locally.

Health Services: Hearing Impaired

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding was provided for support services for deaf people in each region in each of the last five years; [202739]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve health services for deaf people. [202741]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on funding provided for support services for deaf people is not held centrally. Funding for audiology and support services for deaf

people, along with the majority of other services, is provided through the general allocations to national health service trusts and social services departments. It is their responsibility to allocate resources to audiology services based on their knowledge of the needs of their local populations and the resources available.

Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning the full range of health services for their local populations including deaf people, and for ensuring that they meet their capacity needs through improving existing NHS services, and where necessary, by procurement of additional independent sector capacity.

Health Services: Pilot Schemes

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the NHS Whole System Demonstrator pilots in *(a)* Newham, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Cornwall to go live; [202722]

(2) which parties are involved in the delivery of the NHS Whole System Demonstrator pilots in *(a)* Newham, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Cornwall; [202723]

(3) which services will be offered to patients in the NHS whole system demonstrator pilots in *(a)* Newham, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Cornwall. [202724]

Ann Keen: Since summer 2007, the three successful whole system demonstrator (WSD) sites (Kent, Cornwall and Newham), have been engaged with a consortium of leading United Kingdom research institutions in a period of detailed methodology and process planning in order to define the evaluation design for the programme. In addition, the sites have been working to finalise their detailed implementation and delivery plans.

The WSDs are now undertaking work at a local level to inform, engage and recruit general practices to the programme and press ahead with implementation of their delivery plans. Eligible individuals are being written to in order to gain their consent to involvement in the trial. As people agree to involvement in the trial they are being assessed and enrolled on the programme.

From April 2008, people have started to provide their consent to involvement in the trial and implementation is now under way. Following the consent of an individual there are several steps before mainstream service begins, e.g. eligibility confirmation, home visit, base-line evaluation interview, installation of equipment and training. The roll-out is planned to build month by month over the first year, with the lessons learned in the early phase helping to optimise the process.

Each of three WSD sites (Newham, Kent and Cornwall) is working with a variety of parties to implement local delivery plans.

The key delivery partners, as set out in the plans from the sites, are listed in the following table. Each site however, has to work with a large number of stakeholder organisations. Age Concern, Breathe Easy and the Alzheimer's Society are also informing the roll-out. Similarly, a number of software suppliers provide the site legacy systems and are involved in the implementation.

Kent	
Key delivery partners	Kent county council—Kent Adult Social Services (KASS)
	East Kent and Coastal PCT
	West Kent PCT
	Viterion (supplier of TeleHealth)
	Tunstall (supplier of Telecare)
Cornwall	
Key delivery partners	Cornwall and Isle of Scilly PCT
	Cornwall county council DASC
	HTL/WebVMC (supplier of Telehealth)
	Tunstall (supplier of Telecare)
	Carrick Life Line
	Caradon Life Line
	Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust
	Cornwall IT Services
Newham	
Key delivery partners	London borough of Newham (LBN) and Newham primary care trust (NPCT). Service provision for LBN and NPCT is under the auspices of Integrated Adult Services (IAS).
	Newham Homes
	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust (NUHT)
	Tunstall (supplier of Telecare)
	Philips (supplier of Telehealth)
	T+ Medical (supplier of Telehealth)
	Serco
	NHS Direct

The WSD Programme is driven by the need to understand the true benefit of integrated health and social care supported by advanced assistive technology (telecare and telehealth).

The research design for the evaluation of the programme is a cluster randomised controlled trial (RCT), with allocation to intervention or control group determined by randomisation of participating GP practices (the clusters). Those in the control group will continue to receive 'usual care'. Participating users with the intervention group who meet the eligibility criteria will be offered Telehealth, Telecare or a combination of the two in addition to their 'usual care'. The exact nature of the technology package that an eligible participant receives will be determined by the cluster to which they belong and by assessment.

The population groups who do not receive telecare/telehealth immediately will be reassessed to see if they are still eligible for these devices 12 months after their initial participation in the programme. In this way the control group have the opportunity to receive an intervention after a 12-month delay.

Health Visitors: Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of health visitors needed to deliver the Child Health Promotion programme. [202988]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of local organisations to commission and develop services to respond to local needs, including the recruitment of health visitors. "The Operating Framework. For the NHS in England 2008-09" highlights the importance of children's services and the need for local organisations to commission and provide the necessary services and workforce.

HIV Infection: Tunbridge Wells

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents in Tunbridge Wells borough have been diagnosed with HIV and AIDS; and how many of those were diagnosed within the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available. [202238]

Dawn Primarolo: Epidemiological surveillance by the Health Protection Agency shows that there were 42 residents of Tunbridge Wells borough council in receiving HIV-related care in the United Kingdom 2006, latest year for which information is available. There were fewer than five individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in Tunbridge Wells borough council in 2007, although they were not necessarily resident there.

Human Embryo Experiments

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many human embryonic stem cell therapies have been developed in the UK; and how many clinical trials to develop such therapies are taking place; [200452]

(2) how many adult stem cell therapies have been developed in the UK; and how many clinical trials to develop such therapies are taking place. [200453]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect centrally information on clinical trials. There are advantages and disadvantages to using stem cells from a particular source, and it is still unknown which type will provide the most suitable material for a particular stem cell therapy. For this reason, researchers are continuing to explore the use of the full spectrum of stem cells in the hope of developing new clinical treatments, and this broad approach offers the greatest promise for medical advances.

Currently, stem cells are used in successful, well-tested therapies available in the United Kingdom. They include skin grafting, transplantation of bone marrow or umbilical cord blood stem cells to treat certain cancers and immune system disorders, and the use of stem cells from the eye to treat corneal disorders.

However, we are not aware of any clinical trials involving embryonic stem cells being carried out. One of the reasons is that no clinical grade, human embryonic stem cell-derived cell lines are available for use yet.

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Finance

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority is for 2008-09; and how much of this is provided *(a)* by central Government and *(b)* by pharmaceutical companies. [202388]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA's) operating income budget for 2008-09 is £97.9 million.

Of the total income, £11.1 million is provided by the Department to fund the MHRA's work in the regulation of medical devices.

The MHRA is a trading fund and the majority of its income is generated by fees for its medicines regulatory work which are mostly, but not exclusively, charged to the pharmaceutical industry. It monitors costs against fees charged and reviews its fee levels annually. Fees are set, in accordance with HM Treasury guidelines, with a view to achieving cost recovery for each activity for which it sets a charge. The MHRA is also expected to make a return of 3.5 per cent. of average capital employed paid as dividends to HM Treasury via the Department. For 2008-09 the MHRA's trading income budget is £86.8 million.

Mentally Ill: Community Care

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advocacy services will be made available for people subject to community treatment orders in the first six months of the operation of those orders. [203191]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Although there will be no statutory requirement for independent mental health advocacy for people discharged from hospital under supervised community treatment until April 2009, general mental health advocacy will continue to be available in every strategic health authority area.

Mesothelioma: Screening

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for the UK National Screening Committee to *(a)* review the proposed screening programme for (i) mesothelioma and (ii) other asbestos-related illnesses and *(b)* advise primary care trusts on such screening programmes. [202931]

Ann Keen: There are no proposals at present for the UK National Screening Committee to review and advise on screening for mesothelioma or other asbestos-related illnesses.

NHS: Anniversary

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to mark the 60th anniversary of the NHS *(a)* nationally and *(b)* locally; and how much this will cost (i) his Department and (ii) local trusts. [202843]

Ann Keen: The Department plans to mark the 60th anniversary of the NHS in a number of ways. At a national level, activities include a service of celebration at Westminster Abbey, a history of the NHS publication, and focusing annual events including NHS Live and Health and Social Care awards around the 60th anniversary. Locally, NHS organisations are encouraged to celebrate in the most appropriate way for their staff, patients and local communities.

The Department has a budget of £300,000 for national activities and to support local NHS plans. As decisions for celebrating NHS 60 celebrations at a local level are not determined by the Departments we are unable to provide costs for local celebrations.

NHS: Cleaning Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to bring contracted-out NHS sterilisation services back in-house; and if he will make a statement. [202757]

Ann Keen: Hospital trusts and all other healthcare providers are responsible for making their own decisions on decontaminating their instruments, based on local needs. Decontamination can be carried out from either onsite or offsite facilities

All organisations undertaking the decontamination reprocessing of surgical instruments—whether managed by the national health service or by the independent sector—must comply with the standards contained within the Medical Devices Directive (93/42/EEC), copies of which are available in the Library. Trusts are responsible for specifying the services required, in line with the Health Act 2006 Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Health Care Associated Infections. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is responsible for monitoring compliance with the standard for contracted-out national health service sterilisation services.

The Government have invested over £200 million in improving decontamination services in the NHS in England. We will continue to help hospital trusts to provide the highest standards of decontamination of instruments as part of their drive against healthcare-associated infection and to protect patient safety.

NHS: Conditions of Employment

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organisations providing services to the NHS have direction employer status; and how many staff this covers. [203315]

Ann Keen: The NHS Pension Scheme resource accounts for 2006-07, the latest year for which accounts are available, show there were 360 organisations with "direction body" status. Precise information on the number of staff covered by "direction body" status is not available.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when officials in his Department were first informed of the NHS Pay Review Body's recommendations for 2008-09. [202935]

Ann Keen: The NHS Pay Review Body's report for 2008-09 was submitted jointly to my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State on 4 April 2008.

Nurses: Students

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many students *(a)* applied for and *(b)* enrolled in returning to (i) nursing and (ii) midwifery courses in each of the last five years; [202841]

(2) what guidelines exist for the funding of returning to *(a)* nursing and *(b)* midwifery courses; [202842]

(3) how much was spent on the promotion of returning to *(a)* nursing and *(b)* midwifery courses in each of the last five years. [202848]

Ann Keen: In the spring of 2004 and 2005, the Department ran a generic NHS careers campaign. Therefore, costs on promoting return to practice for nurses and midwives separately are not available.

Return to practice is managed locally. The initiative was funded centrally between February 1999 and March 2004. Over 18,500 former nurses and midwives had returned to work in the national health service as a result of the initiative during this period.

From 1 April 2004, responsibility for return to practice programmes was devolved to local NHS organisations, and information is not collected centrally. There are no specific guidelines on funding return to practice courses. NHS organisations fund courses from their overall training budgets to meet local workforce needs. Guidance about return to practice for employers is available on NHS Employers website at

www.nhsemployers.org.

On 25 February 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State outlined plans to help former midwives to return to work in the NHS after a break in service. The incentives are worth up to £3,000, including free refresher training, and financial support during training for child care and travel expenses. The initiative will be launched jointly with the Royal College of Midwives in June.

Parkinson's Disease

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people with Parkinson's disease in each of the last three years; and how many consulted a Parkinson's disease nurse specialist in each year; [202454]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of people with Parkinson's disease not referred to a specialist for diagnosis in each of the last five years; [202371]

(3) what assessment he has made of the level of support given to carers of those with Parkinson's disease. [202453]

Ann Keen: In "The National Service Framework for long term conditions", published in 2005, we estimated that there were 120,000 people living with Parkinson's disease. That is the latest estimate available. The number of these patients who consulted a Parkinson's disease specialist is not collected. A copy of the publication is available in the Library

We have made no estimate of the percentage of people with Parkinson's disease who were not referred to a specialist for diagnosis.

We have made no assessment of the level of support given to carers of those living with Parkinson's disease.

Prostate Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1475W, on prostate cancer, in which primary care trust areas *(a)* local and *(b)* specialist urology teams did not review new patients presenting with urological cancer using a multi-disciplinary team. [201589]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held by primary care trust area. However, the following tables set out the relevant information by national health service trust area.

Local urology multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) non-compliant with "Manual for cancer services 2004" measure 2G-114—

"There should be an operational policy for the team whereby it is intended that all new cancer patients will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team"—

as reviewed in the first round of the National Cancer Peer Review 2004-07 are as follows.

Trust	*Team*
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	MDT—Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	MDT—Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh
Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust	MDT—Aintree
Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	MDT—Wirral
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	MDT—James Paget
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	MDT—Ealing Hospital
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	MDT—North Middlesex University Hospital
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	MDT—Royal Free
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	MDT—Guys and St. Thomas
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	MDT—Milton Keynes General
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	MDT—East Surrey Hospital
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	MDT—Eastbourne

Specialist urology MDTs non-compliant with Manual for cancer services 2004 measure 2G-114—

"There should be an operational policy for the team whereby it is intended that all new cancer patients will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team"—

as reviewed in the first round of the National Cancer Peer Review 2004-07 are as follows.

Trust	*Team*
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust/Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust	MDT—North London Joint Cancer Centre
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	MDT—Plymouth

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1473W, on prostate cancer, what estimate he has made of the number of people who will have prostate cancer in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2016 and *(c)* 2021. [201909]

Ann Keen: The Department has made the following estimates of the number of new cases of prostate cancer.

	New cases (estimate)
2011	29,625
2016	33,026
2021	36,703

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1203-4W, on prostate cancer, whether he has consulted on revised Prostate Cancer Risk Management programme materials; and when he expects a relaunch of the packs to take place; [201912]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1214W, on prostate cancer, whether the Prostate Cancer Risk Management programme was discussed at the meeting with representatives of the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action of 7 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [201913]

Ann Keen: I can confirm that the revision of the Prostate Cancer Risk Management programme (PCRMP) was discussed at my meeting with representatives of the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action on 7 November 2007. Subsequently representatives of the Charter have been members of a small group convened by national health service cancer screening programmes to consult on and oversee the revision of the PCRMP materials. This revision is ongoing, and an exercise seeking the views of key stakeholders will take place on the revised materials in May 2008 prior to the relaunch of the PCRMP in June 2008.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people he estimates will die from prostate cancer in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2011, *(c)* 2016 and *(d)* 2021. [201946]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made any such estimates.

Psychiatric Nurses

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychiatric nurses there were in each primary care trust in each year between 1999 and 2007. [202727]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not available in the format requested; such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

The Department only collects data for England. Owing to the large number of reorganisations in the national health service for the requested period, we have supplied three tables for 1999-2000-prior to the formation of the primary care trusts—for 2001-05 showing the old PCTs and for 2006-07, showing the current PCTs.

Social Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people of working age in each local authority area received state-funded social care support in each of the last 10 years. [202315]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Information on the estimated number of working-age people (aged 18-64) receiving state funded social care support from each council is shown in the following table. It should be noted that the data were first collected from all councils in 2000-01 and the latest year for which data are available is 2006-07.

There are some issues to be aware of when comparing the data over time involving clients who were formally in receipt of higher rates of income support under the Department for Work and Pensions preserved rights scheme and clients receiving services being reinstated in 2004-05.

Number of clients aged 18-64 receiving services during the period by year, England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded number

		Total number of clients receiving services						
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1, 2]	*2005-06*[1, 2]	*2006-07*[1, 2]
	England	427,000	443,000	464,000	482,000	492,000	518,000	543,000
	North East	19,585	23,810	26,450	30,140	28,000	31,000	34,000
	Shire Counties							
116	Durham	3,925	4,540	5,150	6,540	7,110	7,220	8,115
104	Northumberland	3,470	3,100	2,300	3,320	3,680	4,300	4,565
	Unitary Authorities							
117	Darlington	720	910	980	940	930	1,120	1,205
111	Hartlepool	1,000	1,200	1,190	1,240	1,140	1,120	1,890
112	Middlesbrough	1,900	1,910	1,470	1,430	1,770	1,890	2,015
113	Redcar and Cleveland	1,075	1,170	1,150	1,110	1,310	1,500	1,575
114	Stockton-on-Tees	[3]—	1,590	1,570	1,640	1,650	2,050	2,090
	Metropolitan Districts							
106	Gateshead	1,165	1,200	1,770	1,960	2,310	2,250	1,975
107	Newcastle upon Tyne	4,160	2,320	4,340	4,440	2,160	3,600	3,220
108	North Tyneside	[3]—	1,710	1,610	3,220	1,500	1,580	1,955
109	South Tyneside	[3]—	1,900	[3]—	[3]—	1,740	1,850	1,800
110	Sunderland	2,170	2,260	2,330	2,260	2,300	2,400	3,275
	North West	54,145	64,830	67,260	70,080	74,000	73,000	76,000
	Shire Counties							
320	Cheshire	4,980	4,430	4,560	5,620	5,430	6,380	6,470
102	Cumbria	2,440	3,310	3,660	3,420	3,930	5,140	5,115
323	Lancashire	10,895	9,140	9,460	10,200	10,680	11,000	10,965
	Unitary Authorities							
324	Blackburn	1,410	1,290	1,170	1,120	1,060	1,210	1,195
325	Blackpool	1,080	1,230	2,000	1,950	1,820	1,810	1,750
321	Halton	840	860	1,000	1,270	1,360	1,340	1,365
322	Warrington	1,680	3,590	2,120	1,940	1,670	1,780	2,025
	Metropolitan Districts							
304	Bolton	1,885	2,460	3,060	2,980	3,150	3,200	3,400
305	Bury	805	1,000	1,620	1,810	2,480	2,340	2,615
315	Knowsley	1,610	1,590	1,640	1,560	1,340	1,550	1,650
316	Liverpool	4,085	4,290	4,480	4,870	4,920	4,950	4,660
306	Manchester	[3]—	[3]—	3,260	3,770	3,810	4,450	5,110
307	Oldham	7,080	6,260	4,200	3,830	3,920	2,960	3,290
308	Rochdale	[3]—	1,830	2,370	2,310	1,870	1,960	2,365
309	Salford	[3]—	3,160	2,610	2,770	3,520	3,020	3,185
317	Sefton	3,150	3,230	1,990	2,100	2,210	2,710	2,805
318	St. Helens	1,480	1,580	1,860	2,210	2,360	2,090	1,975
310	Stockport	4,685	4,110	5,300	3,970	6,590	3,530	3,620

Number of clients aged 18-64 receiving services during the period by year, England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded number

	Councils with social services responsibilities	*Total number of clients receiving services*						
		2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1, 2]	*2005-06*[1, 2]	*2006-07*[1, 2]
311	Tameside	2,370	2,820	3,220	5,100	3,950	3,640	3,600
312	Trafford	1,445	2,030	2,160	1,690	1,960	1,820	1,975
313	Wigan	[3]—	2,330	2,450	2,360	2,390	2,920	3,620
319	Wirral	2,310	2,940	3,080	3,200	3,150	3,260	3,270
	Yorkshire and the Humber	53,730	55,340	54,100	51,220	49,000	50,000	49,000
	Shire Counties							
218	North Yorkshire	4,450	4,770	4,580	4,240	4,700	4,950	5,040
	Unitary Authorities							
214	East Riding	1,680	3,090	3,430	3,330	3,650	3,210	3,045
215	Kingston-upon-Hull	3,065	3,430	3,560	4,160	4,240	3,170	3,415
216	North East Lincolnshire	725	1,250	970	1,380	860	1,620	1,890
217	North Lincolnshire	1,825	1,120	1,490	1,900	2,300	1,840	1,690
219	York	1,360	1,370	1,940	1,920	1,780	1,820	1,765
	Metropolitan Districts							
204	Barnsley	2,655	4,440	3,600	4,610	3,030	3,980	4,190
209	Bradford	[3]—	4,020	4,160	4,770	5,030	4,870	4,585
210	Calderdale	3,355	3,150	2,760	980	1,820	1,850	1,920
205	Doncaster	6,620	1,300	2,150	1,760	1,720	1,560	1,605
211	Kirklees	3,480	4,260	3,760	3,490	3,530	3,620	3,540
212	Leeds	7,645	7,760	8,370	8,390	6,900	7,170	5,650
206	Rotherham	2,930	3,100	2,930	2,700	2,670	2,060	2,200
207	Sheffield	10,985	9,970	8,520	4,840	4,750	5,370	5,555
213	Wakefield	2,950	2,320	1,860	2,750	2,400	2,610	2,690
	East Midlands	32,935	39,000	37,740	39,160	39,000	39,000	40,000
	Shire Counties							
506	Derbyshire	4,845	6,990	6,050	6,280	6,490	6,500	6,525
508	Leicestershire	3,515	3,940	4,290	4,360	4,330	4,790	4,450
503	Lincolnshire	9,945	8,760	8,060	8,550	5,410	5,110	5,910
504	Northamptonshire	5,150	5,770	5,000	5,320	8,370	7,480	7,155
511	Nottinghamshire	5,735	6,070	5,970	6,490	6,630	6,900	7,720
	Unitary Authorities							
507	Derby	2,015	2,440	2,360	2,290	2,400	2,470	2,785
509	Leicester	1,540	2,000	2,250	2,550	2,880	2,700	2,545
512	Nottingham	[3]—	[3]—	3,560	3,120	2,540	2,600	2,685
510	Rutland	180	210	220	210	220	220	280
	West Midlands	34,320	39,690	46,610	46,560	49,000	51,000	51,000
	Shire Counties							
417	Shropshire	2,775	2,900	3,420	3,500	4,180	4,420	4,205
413	Staffordshire	7,040	5,860	7,000	7,060	7,170	7,200	6,485
404	Warwickshire	3,375	3,730	3,740	3,750	5,430	4,990	4,840
416	Worcestershire	[3]—	2,860	4,820	4,230	4,990	5,120	5,000
	Unitary Authorities							
415	Herefordshire	1,165	1,220	1,380	1,620	1,540	1,710	2,075
414	Stoke-on-Trent	1,610	2,190	2,980	3,400	2,690	2,420	2,495
418	Telford and Wrekin	2,835	1,980	2,170	2,570	2,390	2,410	2,850
	Metropolitan Districts							
406	Birmingham	6,875	5,200	7,390	8,390	7,700	8,720	8,420
407	Coventry	[3]—	[3]—	3,250	2,060	2,640	2,730	2,830
408	Dudley	3,485	4,060	3,030	2,900	3,110	3,350	3,365

Number of clients aged 18-64 receiving services during the period by year, England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded number

		Total number of clients receiving services						
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1, 2]	*2005-06*[1, 2]	*2006-07*[1, 2]
409	Sandwell	[3]—	[3]—	2,500	1,600	2,320	2,470	2,855
410	Solihull	1,210	1,180	1,290	1,390	1,520	1,510	1,600
411	Walsall	1,100	1,570	1,850	2,420	1,830	1,730	2,180
412	Wolverhampton	2,845	1,870	1,790	1,670	1,740	1,940	2,110
	South West	42,735	44,720	47,300	51,670	52,000	57,000	60,000
	Shire Counties							
902	Cornwall	9,475	8,600	9,160	9,700	9,750	8,830	8,635
912	Devon	5,390	4,920	4,750	5,400	5,540	7,310	7,975
809	Dorset	2,855	3,690	3,190	4,400	3,580	4,190	3,470
904	Gloucestershire	4,775	3,960	3,930	3,960	4,370	4,820	5,245
906	Isles of Scilly	40	20	10	10	10	10	10
905	Somerset	3,850	3,980	5,740	5,100	5,790	9,160	9,895
817	Wiltshire	4,110	3,220	3,060	4,700	4,750	4,290	4,920
	Unitary Authorities							
908	Bath and North East Somerset	[3]—	1,880	1,740	1,790	1,400	1,630	1,855
810	Bournemouth	2,240	1,370	1,550	1,730	1,860	1,450	1,695
909	Bristol	3,945	4,730	5,160	4,790	4,330	3,470	4,230
910	North Somerset	1,690	1,610	1,550	1,560	1,410	1,630	1,710
913	Plymouth	[3]—	2,130	2,190	2,310	2,170	2,540	2,920
811	Poole	810	870	950	1,460	1,550	1,710	1,880
911	South Gloucestershire	1,540	1,350	1,490	1,630	2,200	2,460	2,415
819	Swindon	1,125	1,330	1,450	1,810	1,890	1,950	2,065
914	Torbay	880	1,080	1,370	1,340	1,240	1,380	1,320
	Eastern	32,650	42,440	43,800	47,470	45,000	52,000	54,000
	Shire Counties							
610	Bedfordshire	1,510	1,630	1,490	2,540	3,550	3,470	3,600
623	Cambridgeshire	2,285	2,470	3,190	3,450	3,460	3,790	4,185
620	Essex	6,280	12,550	12,500	12,240	[3]	16,230	16,240
606	Hertfordshire	7,320	10,270	9,240	9,240	8,850	6,290	7,770
607	Norfolk	7,475	7,890	7,710	8,070	5,840	9,540	9,265
609	Suffolk	1,060	1,240	2,810	4,350	5,080	5,860	5,860
	Unitary Authorities							
611	Luton	1,080	1,110	1,410	1,670	1,600	1,640	1,515
624	Peterborough	880	1,990	2,010	1,930	2,190	1,660	1,680
621	Southend	3,735	2,180	2,380	2,690	2,690	2,910	2,345
622	Thurrock	1,030	1,100	1,080	1,290	1,180	1,090	1,250
	London	68,125	70,800	69,790	72,770	72,000	75,000	81,000
	Inner London							
702	Camden	3,390	3,420	3,500	3,450	2,280	2,240	2,360
703	Greenwich	1,800	1,530	2,470	1,630	1,850	1,610	1,865
704	Hackney	1,060	[3]—	1,390	1,710	2,240	2,900	2,985
705	Hammersmith and Fulham	2,005	1,410	1,610	1,920	1,840	1,830	1,820
706	Islington	1,450	1,720	1,890	1,710	1,690	1,960	2,150
707	Kensington and Chelsea	1,465	1,850	2,410	3,810	4,120	2,550	2,740
708	Lambeth	2,360	2,810	2,490	2,570	2,480	2,870	2,840
709	Lewisham	2,145	2,130	2,480	2,420	2,370	2,370	2,205
710	Southwark	2,585	2,180	2,360	3,480	3,720	3,540	3,690
711	Tower Hamlets	1,810	2,550	2,460	2,350	2,260	2,860	3,005

Number of clients aged 18-64 receiving services during the period by year, England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded number

		Total number of clients receiving services						
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03[1]*	*2003-04[1]*	*2004-05[1, 2]*	*2005-06[1, 2]*	*2006-07[1, 2]*
712	Wandsworth	2,160	2,310	3,110	3,320	2,310	2,570	2,975
713	Westminster	2,140	2,070	2,040	1,980	1,980	2,450	2,655
714	City of London	340	140	140	180	160	170	145
	Outer London							
716	Barking and Dagenham	1,205	1,260	1,260	1,220	1,420	1,460	1,270
717	Barnet	3,070	3,630	2,510	1,440	1,770	2,500	2,660
718	Bexley	3,590	3,200	3,750	3,540	2,490	2,900	3,800
719	Brent	1,505	2,730	1,780	2,480	2,180	2,530	3,415
720	Bromley	2,375	2,450	2,930	2,840	3,040	3,490	3,600
721	Croydon	2,685	3,510	3,180	2,950	2,450	2,620	2,730
722	Ealing	2,115	2,570	2,170	2,190	2,450	3,050	3,065
723	Enfield	1,220	1,590	1,940	2,060	2,220	2,510	3,045
724	Haringey	2,920	2,250	2,280	2,320	2,240	2,730	2,795
725	Harrow	3,310	2,340	2,510	2,480	2,600	1,690	2,615
726	Havering	1,785	1,920	2,000	2,240	1,850	1,880	2,095
727	Hillingdon	2,875	1,920	1,570	1,730	1,860	1,740	1,880
728	Hounslow	1,420	2,080	1,770	2,230	2,740	2,540	2,375
729	Kingston-upon-Thames	3,975	3,630	1,940	1,640	1,680	1,750	1,520
730	Merton	1,675	1,440	1,170	1,370	1,550	1,910	2,050
731	Newham	1,260	2,360	2,110	2,130	2,450	2,620	3,295
732	Redbridge	1,870	2,220	2,510	2,620	2,630	2,400	2,635
733	Richmond upon Thames	1,110	1,120	1,170	1,320	1,290	1,330	1,620
734	Sutton	1,220	1,230	1,440	1,260	1,470	1,530	1,610
735	Waltham Forest	2,240	1,580	1,460	2,200	2,080	2,210	1,595
	South East	41,945	61,950	70,940	73,150	85,000	90,000	98,000
	Shire Counties							
612	Buckinghamshire	1,630	2,100	2,600	2,800	2,570	2,790	3,035
815	East Sussex	3,405	2,570	3,750	4,170	3,920	3,820	4,180
812	Hampshire	8,715	17,120	15,670	18,870	28,390	27,830	30,105
820	Kent	7,835	8,900	11,860	12,340	12,400	13,530	14,885
608	Oxfordshire	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	3,570	4,000	4,880	5,045
805	Surrey	[3]—	[3]—	11,050	5,040	9,420	9,910	8,770
807	West Sussex	2,510	2,800	2,840	5,510	4,330	5,710	9,405
	Unitary Authorities							
614	Bracknell Forest	660	830	670	660	870	1,160	1,230
816	Brighton and Hove	2,170	2,980	2,630	3,200	2,740	2,890	2,710
803	Isle of Wight	3,910	3,080	3,690	2,740	1,700	1,750	2,305
821	Medway Towns	1,605	1,650	1,380	1,620	1,990	2,740	2,615
613	Milton Keynes	85	1,090	1,310	1,730	1,580	1,880	2,555
813	Portsmouth	2,665	2,980	2,730	2,500	2,310	1,630	1,825
616	Reading	1,210	1,150	1,370	1,660	1,460	1,600	1,625
617	Slough	850	940	1,060	1,130	1,100	1,260	1,410
814	Southampton	2,245	3,150	2,880	2,560	2,650	2,830	2,950
615	West Berkshire	785	800	910	970	1,200	1,400	1,390
618	Windsor and Maidenhead	825	910	950	1,200	1,380	1,330	980

Number of clients aged 18-64 receiving services during the period by year, England, 1 April to 31 March

Rounded number

		Total number of clients receiving services						
	Councils with social services responsibilities	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[3]	*2003-04*[1]	*2004-05*[1, 2]	*2005-06*[1, 2]	*2006-07*[1, 2]
619	Wokingham	850	720	820	880	890	1,080	1,015

[1] Data includes clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.
[2] Guidance was restated in 2004-05. Figures from previous years are not comparable.
[3] Missing data.
Notes:
1. The England and regional totals are estimates based on the figures from 150 P1 proformas.
2. Figures may not add up because of rounding.
3. Regional and national totals may not be equal to the sum of the council level figures due to the use of estimates when the council did not fully complete the return.
4. All figures presented are rounded to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000. The precise rounding rules are:
For national and regional totals:
Data: Rounding rule
Over 10,000: Rounding to nearest 1,000
Between 100 and 10,000: Rounded to nearest 100
Under 50: Rounded to nearest 10.
5. There are some issues to be aware of when comparing the data over time:
Since 2002-03, clients who were formally in receipt of higher rates of income support under the Department for Work and Pensions preserved rights scheme and who transferred to council support on 8 April 2002 have been included in the referrals, assessments and packages of care return. Clients that were in receipt of preserved rights but who were already being partially supported by councils were previously included in the data and are not considered as clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights. This mainly effects clients in residential care.
Guidance relating to clients receiving services was restated for 2004-05 to only include clients who are assessed by social services and have a care plan. In previous years, some councils included clients receiving services from grant-funded organisations without a community care assessment and therefore the 2004-05 data is not comparable to previous years. Additional clarification was also given on the recording of some types of services. These amendments mainly affect clients receiving community–based services.
Source:
RAP proforma P1.

Surgery: Waiting Lists

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were performed within *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven, *(h)* eight, *(i)* nine, *(j)* 10, *(k)* 11 and *(l)* 12 or more weeks of referral from a general practitioner, or specialist practitioner, in each quarter of each of the last five years, broken down by acute hospital trust; and if he will make a statement. [200371]

Mr. Bradshaw: Referral-to-treatment data have been collected since January 2007. The information requested has been placed in the Library. These data show the number and percentage of admitted patients treated in each month up to and including January 2008, along with the quarterly totals. The figures include patients referred by general practitioners, specialist practitioners and other sources of referral.

By December 2008, patients who want it, and for whom it is clinically appropriate, can expect to start their treatment within a maximum of 18 weeks from referral. Published data show that at a national level, performance for admitted patients increased from 49 per cent. in January 2007 to 69 per cent. in January 2008.

Working Conditions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to help employers provide healthy working environments. [202983]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The Government have done a good deal to help employers provide healthy working environments in recent years: the publication of the White Paper "Choosing Health—making healthy choices easier" (2004) the cross-Government strategy "Health, work and well-being—Caring for our future" (2005), and, finally, the more recently published review of the health of the working age population, "Working for a healthier tomorrow" (March 2008) by Professor Dame Carol Black, National Director for Health and Work. In addition the Government have sponsored a number of workplace health awards for both public and private sectors, including the prestigious Business in the Community Health at Work awards.

As the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions set out in a written ministerial statement on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 50-52WS, the Government will consider Dame Carol's findings carefully and, over the coming months, will develop detailed proposals to make a real difference to all working environments. Success in this agenda will benefit individuals, families, communities, businesses and the economy as a whole.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Adoption: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities had performance targets in their local public service agreements or local area agreements on *(a)* adoption and *(b)* stability of adoption placements, where such performance was incentivised with reward grants; and what the target was in each case. [202621]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 670W to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley (John Hemming).

Bus Services: Subsidies

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of local

authority grant has been made to enable the subsidy of uneconomic bus routes for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 in (i) Plymouth and (ii) Devon. [203697]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

Plymouth city council and Devon county council have received Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG) and funding from the Department for Transport's Urban and Rural Bus Challenge and Kickstart schemes. These grants have provided financial support towards new and existing bus services including those which may have previously been uneconomic. The following table shows the amounts that the two authorities received in 2007-08 under these grant schemes; projected figures for 2008-09 are also shown:

Authority	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Plymouth city council	133,848	[1]16,760
Devon county council	2,531,770	2,557,972

[1] The reduction as compared with the Plymouth figure for the previous year reflects the completion of funding in 2007-08 for the authority's project under the Urban Bus Challenge scheme.

Local authorities may also use funding from the Government's unhypothecated Revenue Support Grant to support local bus services.

Bus companies operating throughout Devon also receive Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) from the Department. This is a payment equivalent to about 80 per cent. of the fuel duty that operators incur in providing local bus services. However, as BSOG is paid directly to operators, statistics are not kept for payments by local authority or geographical area.

Caravan Sites: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Traveller caravans are liable for council tax where the pitch is not charged business rates. [202592]

John Healey: A pitch for a caravan which is a person's sole or main residence will be liable for council tax.

Connect Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what payments her Department has made to Connect Public Affairs since her Department was created; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case; [203793]

(2) what payments the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit made to Connect Public Affairs; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [203794]

Mr. Dhanda: The following payments have been made to Connect Public Affairs since the Department (as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) was formed in 2002. These include payments made by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. Connect Public Affairs provided a range of conferences and events covering the delivery of neighbourhood renewal programmes, policies, and related themes including, in March 2008, a national conference on the future development of regeneration policy and community empowerment.

Date paid	*Total amount*
14 March 2003	11,750.00
1 June 2006	95,054.89
25 July 2006	10,791.07
22 August 2006	12,922.65
31 October 2006	12,922.65
9 November 2006	107,771.72
20 November 2006	12,922.65
21 December 2006	12,922.65
16 February 2007	12,922.65
22 March 2007	29,367.52
27 March 2007	22,630.81
10 May 2007	12,922.65
21 August 2007	6,271.56
12 September 2007	12,922.65
2 October 2007	6,271.56
14 November 2007	6,271.56
31 December 2007	28,135.38
4 February 2008	6,271.56

Construction Methods: Fire Prevention

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the fire resistance standards to be applied to materials used in the construction of public and community buildings; [203708]

(2) what steps she is taking to inform local authorities about the fire performance of certain composite panels; [203835]

(3) whether she plans to revise, loss prevention standard 1181, relating to the fire performance of composite panels used in the construction of schools and other community buildings; [203836]

(4) if she will meet the Loss Prevention Certificate Board to discuss the fire performance of composite panels. [203837]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Building Regulations 2000 (as amended) apply to building work in England and Wales, typically the erection, extension or material alteration of a building, including public and community buildings. For the purposes of securing reasonable standards of health and safety for persons in and around buildings, part B of the regulations sets out requirements for fire safety.

In support of these requirements, the Department issues technical guidance, known as Approved Document B, which sets out appropriate levels of fire performance and fire resistance for materials, products and structures, including composite panels, when tested to relevant British or European standards. The necessary level of performance that should be obtained will depend upon the type of building, the nature of the construction product and where it is located.

Specific guidance on meeting the fire safety requirements of the building regulations in the design and construction of schools is given in Building Bulletin 100, published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Information on hospitals in Health Technical Memorandum 02-05, published by the Department of Health.

In existing buildings, fire safety risk assessment undertaken under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 should take account of the type of construction used in any building. The Department has issued technical fire safety risk assessment guidance which includes reference to composite panels.

LPS 1181 is a loss prevention standard produced by the Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB) and used primarily by the insurance industry. This standard provides a method for assessing the fire performance of cladding systems with respect to potential economic loss in the event of a fire. Current statutory provisions and supporting standards for fire protection in buildings are made only for the purposes of securing the health and safety of people in and around buildings, not to reduce economic loss. As such the Department does not utilise LPS 1181 within its guidance on fire safety.

Officials within the Department do, from time to time, communicate with the LPCB on a wide range of issues. However, as LPS 1181 is not utilised in our guidance, it is not of direct relevance to the Department's work.

Construction: Sustainable Development

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to improve sustainability within local government procurement with regard to construction. [202543]

John Healey: Subject to their legal duties, including the duty of best value and public procurement law, local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions. There is a range of good practice guidance to which they can have regard to. For example, the Local Government Task Force, which is sponsored by the Department, recently published three guides on sustainable construction, which include specific advice for leaders, construction professionals and procurement managers.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was raised in council tax for each precepting authority in 2006-07 in England. [202616]

John Healey: Details of the level of council tax precepting authorities in England expected to raise 2006-07 were published in table 8 of the statistical release "Levels of council tax set by local authorities in England 2006-07".

This release is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax067.htm

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, on Council Tax: Valuation, for what reasons the sections on *(a)* future council tax revaluations, *(b)* the hon. Member for Meriden and *(c)* consequentials were redacted from the minutes placed in the Library. [202471]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W. The reasons are stated in the redacted minutes.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government *(1)* pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, and 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 924-5W, on Council Tax: Valuation, if she will place in the Library the initial analysis of the number of consequentials that informed the discussions at the Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England); [202475]

(2) how many consequentials that were identified were subsequently corrected as part of the Valuation Office Agency's normal duty; and how many households had their records amended. [202476]

John Healey: No analysis has been undertaken.

Council Tax: Waste Management

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether joint waste authorities will levy a separate precept on council tax. [202612]

John Healey: Joint waste authorities will not have precepting powers, and will need to agree funding structures with their constituent authorities.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment there were in her Department in each month since May 2005. [199630]

Mr. Dhanda: Our workforce statistics are compiled quarterly and published by the Office for National Statistics. They are based on numbers of employees rather than posts, and do not reflect vacancy information.

The latest available figures are for 31 December 2007 and show that there were 5,280 permanent civil servants and 70 temporary employees in the Department for Communities and Local Government. The figures are on the full-time equivalent basis and are rounded to the nearest 10.

Historical records are available from the recently launched UK Statistics Authority website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ReleaseCalendar/fundreleases.asp?releasetitle=Public+Sector+Employment&releaseorganisation=42&releasetheme=&daterange=3&sday=18&smonth=03&syear=2008&ShowHits=10&SortOrder=0&ShowYear=2008.

These figures will exclude temporary agency workers who are not employed directly by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Non-civil service permanent posts include special advisers. The Prime Minister gave details of special advisers to the House on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 147WS.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of the shortlisted eco-town proposals involve development on *(a)* green belt and *(b)* greenfield land. [203065]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him today.

Eco-Towns: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to promote the restriction of car *(a)* ownership and *(b)* parking spaces in eco-town developments. [203057]

Caroline Flint: We have set out in the consultation document "Eco-towns—living a greener future" what needs to be achieved in terms of sustainable transport and this includes a significant reduction in car reliance. This would mean, for example, locating major facilities and services within a 10-minute walk of homes within the eco-town and provision of frequent and reliable public transport. Through these measures and those set out in the consultation document, we would expect there to be less of a need for car parking spaces, but each location will need its own approach.

Eco-Towns: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which bids to become eco-towns included plans for development on *(a)* green belt and *(b)* greenfield land. [202558]

Caroline Flint: On the basis of an evaluation of the shortlisted bids, I can confirm that no new homes will be built on green belt land. In terms of greenfield land, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2303W to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown).

Eco-Towns: Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Infrastructure Planning Commission will consider planning applications for eco-towns or their associated infrastructure. [203036]

Caroline Flint: Under the proposals in the Planning Bill, the Infrastructure Planning Commission will consider nationally significant infrastructure projects, such as proposals for major new power stations. Planning applications for eco-towns will be submitted to the appropriate local authority.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which her Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications are carried out electronically. [199195]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department is able to monitor the number of downloads from its website and intranet, and the volume of external e-mail correspondence. We have not set up the capacity to monitor the level of internal e-mail correspondence.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her responsibilities in respect of the e-Government regional partnerships are. [202634]

Mr. Dhanda: The Local e-Government Programme concluded at the end of March 2006, having delivered against the Prime Minister's pledge that 100 per cent. of services would be electronically enabled by December 2005. The e-Government regional partnership network has now become self-sustaining, with member authorities taking responsibility for the individual partnerships' forward work programme within the devolved arrangements for regional improvement and efficiency.

Floods: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £110 million received from the EU for emergency flood relief will be put at the disposal of *(a)* central Government, *(b)* local government and *(c)* Gloucestershire county council. [202625]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my parliamentary statement of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 18WS.

Floods: Planning Permission

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the Planning Inspectorate overruled decisions to refuse planning permission for new developments proposed to be built in flood risk areas when the Environment Agency and the relevant local authority have advised against such a development in the last two years. [202969]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspectorate does not capture data to enable it to identify appeals that relate to development within flood risk areas. If a planning application for development in a flood risk area were to be referred to the Planning Inspectorate on appeal, it would be decided in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicated otherwise. All representations made would be taken into account, as well as Government policy set out in Planning Policy Statement 25, "Development and Flood Risk". Each case would be determined on its merits.

Gardens: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the presence of a roof garden is taken into account by the Valuation Office Agency during a council tax valuation. [202614]

John Healey: When undertaking a valuation to arrive at, or amend, a council tax banding, all material factors that affect the open market value of a dwelling will be taken into account, as required by the Council Tax (Situation and Valuation of Dwellings) Regulations 1992.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on voluntary home condition reports; and if she will make a statement. [202640]

Caroline Flint: The Government remain convinced of the benefits of the Home Condition Report (HCR) and encourages sellers to include one in their pack. The Department continues to work with industry to promote and find solutions to increase the uptake of the HCR on a market-led basis.

Homelessness

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless households, where the household type was a *(a)* couple with dependent children and *(b)* lone-parent household with dependent children, were in temporary accommodation in England in each year since 1997. [203054]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level on the P1E statistical return. This information includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Data on the number of households in temporary accommodation are provided in our quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness, published on our website and placed in the House Library. The latest release was published on 10 March 2008.

Data on household type was first collected on the main P1E form from June 2006. Figures showing a breakdown by household type, including *(a)* couples with dependent children and *(b)* lone parent households with dependent children, are available for each quarter from June 2006 onwards and are provided in Table 10c, available on the website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/714966.xls

A summary of data from the table is provided as follows. It shows the number of households in temporary accommodation, by household type, as at the last day of December in 2006 and 2007.

Number of households in temporary accommodation, by household type, as at 31 December

	Total in temporary accommodation[1]	*Couple with dependent children*[2]		*Lone parent household with dependent children*	
			Percentage of total		*Percentage of total*
2006[3]	89,510	23,130	26	42,310	47
2007[3]	79,500	20,450	26	37,860	48

[1] This should be a "snapshot" of the numbers in accommodation on the last day of the quarter, not the numbers taking up accommodation.
[2] Includes expectant mothers with no other dependent children.
[3] Provisional data.
Note:
Totals may not equal the sum of components because of rounding.
Source:
CLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what she estimates the running costs of the Homes and Communities Agency will be in its first year of operation. [202586]

Caroline Flint: The Homes and Communities Agency's running costs will be brought together from a range of components, including the current running costs of English Partnerships, a percentage of the current running costs of the Housing Corporation that relate to those functions transferring to the HCA, the current running costs of the Academy for Sustainable Communities and costs associated with the delivery of a number of programmes currently delivered by my Department. Work to disaggregate the costs involved is under way.

Housing: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the proposal to build 1,500 new homes next to the River Stour in North Bournemouth. [202084]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* There have been no discussions between the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at ministerial level. However, discussions have taken place between officials of the two Departments

as part of the consideration of the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the regional spatial strategy for the south west.

Housing: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of housing allocations made by housing associations in the Chelmsford local authority area were made to people who had no previous direct or indirect links to the borough in each of the last three years. [202911]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The information is not available in the form requested.

Housing: Conservation Areas

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings there are in conservation areas according to Valuation Office Agency property attribute records. [202593]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1410W in respect of the Value Significant Code OS.

Housing: Construction

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new houses were built in the Easington constituency in each of the last five years. [203788]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on house building rates is not held on a parliamentary constituency basis, but for the Easington district as a whole the numbers of houses built (gross) over the last five years is as follows:

	Units
2002-03	124
2003-04	382
2004-05	406
2005-06	402
2006-07	659
Total	1,973

Housing: Low Incomes

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to local authorities to apply conditions to ensure that homes granted planning consent as affordable are retained within the affordable sector in perpetuity; and if she will take steps to ensure that local authorities use the powers available. [203175]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* There are a number of methods by which homes that are sold can be retained in the social housing sector.

Local authorities which sell under the Right to Buy scheme properties located in

National Parks;

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and

40 areas designated by the Secretary of State as 'rural' for RTB purposes,

may impose covenants restricting the resale of these properties to people who have lived or worked locally for at least three years. 'Locally' means within a 'region' designated by the Secretary of State for this purpose. Alternatively, they may require that if the owners wish to resell such properties, they must first offer them back to the local authority.

In order to retain social rented properties in areas where replacement is difficult, the Right to Acquire scheme, under which housing association tenants may buy their rented homes at a discount, does not apply in small rural settlements.

In addition, providers have a right of first refusal to buy back properties sold under the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire schemes if they are resold within 10 years if it is essential to retain the homes for social rent.

Measures in the Housing and Regeneration Bill, which completed its second reading in the House of Lords on 28 April, will enable landlords of shared ownership houses to restrict the equity share that shared owners can buy in areas where replacement is difficult, thereby retaining the property within the affordable housing sector for future purchasers where it is essential to do so.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Valuation Office Agency's policy is on whether the addition of an extension to a property will normally be assumed to entail an increase in the banding of the property when it is sold. [202567]

John Healey: This is not a matter of policy. Whether an extension results in a banding increase when the property is sold is a matter of fact and valuation.

Ipsos MORI: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the full original dataset of polling information compiled by Ipsos MORI as part of its research study of the home information pack area trials. [202460]

Caroline Flint: No. The data include personal information which could not be checked and where appropriate removed except at disproportionate cost.

Local Authorities: Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has conducted on the mechanisms and processes by which local authorities respond to petitions from local residents. [202562]

Mr. Dhanda: As part of the consultation on Local Petitions and Calls for Action, which closed on 20 March 2008, the Department commissioned a series of focus groups with the public on petitions, and received

149 consultation responses from local authorities, some of which detailed their processes for responding to petitions.

Local Authorities: Satisfaction

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average satisfaction rate with local councils according to *(a)* Audit Commission assessments and *(b)* performance against best value performance indicators was in each year since 1997. [202464]

John Healey: Satisfaction with local authorities has been measured through the best value user satisfaction survey, which was undertaken by local authorities every three years from 2000-01 to 2006-07. The data from these surveys were collated and analysed by an external IT contractor on behalf of the Audit Commission and the Department. The latest general report is published on the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/324639

Latest data for individual authorities can be found on the Audit Commission website at

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/Performance/Downloads/2006_07UserSurveyBVPIswithDistricts.xls.

The satisfaction survey collects information on 13 attitudinal best value performance indicators. Overall satisfaction with each local authority is measured by best value performance indicator 3, and the averages for local authorities in England are as follows.

	Percentage
2000-01	65
2003-04	55
2006-07	54

The Audit Commission assesses councils' performance through comprehensive performance assessment. It does not make separate assessments of customer service satisfaction with councils. In determining the overall CPA performance ratings and direction of travel statements of councils, the Audit Commission will take into consideration the results in the best value user satisfaction surveys, as well as other non-attitudinal evidence on performance.

Since the CPA (the performance management framework for councils in England) was introduced in 2002 councils throughout England have continued to significantly improve their overall performance, as the following table illustrates.

	CPA 2002 results	*CPA 2003 results*	*CPA 2004 results*	*cpa 2005 results*	*CPA 2006 results*	*CPA 2007 results*
Number of single tier and county councils achieving excellent/good CPA rating[1]	76	82	101	n/a	n/a	n/a
Percentage	51	55	67			
Number of single tier and county councils achieving 3 or 4 star rating[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	102	119	123
Percentage	—	—	—	68	80	83

[1] The Audit Commission introduced a new framework for CPA in single tier and county councils from 2005-08, CPA—'The Harder Test'. This framework is a harder and different test to the framework used from 2002-04 and CPA categories were renamed from 2005 onwards to reflect this change.

Local Authorities: Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding is provided by the Government for local authorities to provide translation and interpretation services, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* language. [202745]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government Ombudsman: Manpower

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of employees of the Local Government Ombudsman have formerly worked in local government. [202582]

John Healey: Some 55 per cent. of the employees working for the Local Government Ombudsman previously worked in local government.

London Connects: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what central funding London Connects *(a)* has received and *(b)* is due to receive for the Valuebill project. [202461]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 525W.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the business rates multiplier is for *(a)* businesses eligible for the small business rate and *(b)* other businesses in 2008-09. [202603]

John Healey: The multiplier for properties eligible for small business rate relief in 2008-09 is 0.458, while the multiplier for other properties that are not liable for this relief is 0.462.

Non-Domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value of small business rate relief was in each year since it was introduced. [202605]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 319W to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan).

Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the current rate of employer contribution is to each public sector pension scheme for which her Department has responsibility. [202613]

John Healey: The current average employer contribution rate for the local government pension scheme, based on available information, is some 15.7 per cent. of payroll.

The equivalent rate for the firefighters pension scheme 1992 is 21.3 per cent. of payroll and 11 per cent. for the new fire fighters pension scheme 2006.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations have been made by respondents to the Housing Green Paper in relation to planning appeals made by developers on the grounds that insufficient land for development has been identified by a local authority. [203045]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 89WS.

Planning: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the East of England Development Agency's involvement in the bottling plant proposal for the Northwick Road/Canvey jetty area of Canvey Island; and if she will make a statement. [203633]

Mr. Iain Wright: No representations have been received on the East of England Development Agency's involvement in the bottling plant proposal for the Northwick Road Canvey jetty area of Canvey Island.

Planning: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will call in a planning approval granted by councillors at the corner of Oak Road and London Road in Hadleigh to assess its compatibility with the Castle Point local development framework. [203632]

Mr. Iain Wright: The primary responsibility for development control within an area rests with the local planning authority. It is for the authority to decide in the first instance, with particular regard to the provisions of the statutory Development Plan and any other material considerations, whether a particular development should take place. The Secretary of State rarely intervenes in the consideration of individual planning applications and then only when planning issues of national or regional significance are involved. To do so more often would be to undermine the responsibility of local authorities for planning in their area.

Government policy in Planning Policy Statements 1 and 12 states that planning decisions should be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Officers at the Government Office for the East of England (GO East) studied the Council's Planning Committee Report for this proposal and were satisfied that the decision to grant planning permission would be made in accordance with local plan policy and, in view of the fact that the planning issues raised were of no more than local significance, it was considered that the Secretary of State's intervention was not be appropriate.

Now that planning permission has been granted, there is no set procedure by which the Secretary of State can intervene. She does have certain powers which could be invoked if a development of land use was judged to be so grossly wrong as to do serious damage to the wider public interest. In this instance, and for the reasons given above, such action would not be justified. It is now for Castle Point borough council to monitor the development to ensure that it is carried out in accordance with the terms of the planning permission.

Planning: Floods

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities were directed to rescind planning consents owing to flood risk in each of the last five years; when each direction was issued; and in respect of which location. [201786]

Mr. Iain Wright: Section 100 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides a mechanism for the Secretary of State to initiate proceedings for the revocation or modification of planning permission.

According to our records, no local authorities have been directed by the Secretary of State to rescind planning permissions owing to flood threats over the last five years.

Planning: Travelling People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1902W, on Planning: Travelling People, what funding has been provided to assist local residents in challenging illegal or unauthorised developments by travellers. [202987]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government fund Planning Aid gives free, independent advice to individuals and community groups, including tenant and resident groups, on the full range of planning issues. The Government provided grant funding for Planning Aid of £1.7 million in 2007-08, which is rising to £3.2 million in 2008-09.

The Government have also published a guide to the effective use of enforcement powers against the unauthorised development of caravan sites. This informs interested members of the public how the planning enforcement system can prevent the stationing of caravans on land in contravention of planning control.

Unitary Councils

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers she has to impose a new unitary arrangement upon a two-tier area; what trial has to be observed; and what period of consultation she expects to be undertaken. [202487]

John Healey: Our powers to create new unitary structures for an area are limited to implementing, with or without modification, proposals made by one or more councils for the whole or part of an area, or alternative proposals made by the Boundary Committee following a request to the Committee for advice on the councils' proposals.

Before implementing a proposal the Secretary of State must consult every authority affected by it (except the council or councils which made it) and such other persons as she considers appropriate, unless the proposal is made jointly by every council affected by it; and before making an alternative proposal the Boundary Committee must consult persons who may be interested.

We would expect any consultation by the Secretary of State or by the Boundary Committee to last at least the normal 12-week period for public consultations, unless the particular circumstances warrant a different period.

Unpaid Taxes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates was uncollected in each billing authority in the last year for which figures are available. [202600]

John Healey: A table giving details of the amount and the proportion of *(a)* council tax and *(b)* non-domestic rates that was uncollected by each billing authority in 2006-07 has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 121W, on the Valuation Office, if she will place in the Library a copy of the current version of the Valuation Office Agency's form Dwelling Survey V09072. [202479]

John Healey: A copy of the current version of this form is available in the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Referencing Manual, and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1279W.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1033W, on Property: Databases, which local authorities submit billing authority reports to the Valuation Office Agency via the Valuebill electronic interface. [202468]

John Healey: The following local authorities submitted electronic billing authority reports (eBARs) to the Valuation Office Agency between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2007:

Amber Valley
Arun
Barnsley
Barrow-In-Furness
Basildon
Berwick Upon Tweed
Bexley
Birmingham
Blackburn With Darwen
Borough of Poole
Bournemouth
Braintree
Breckland
Brent
Brentwood
Bristol City
Broadland
Bromley
Bromsgrove
Burnley
Caerphilly
Caradon
Carmarthenshire
Carrick
Castle Morpeth
Castle Point
Ceredigion
Chelmsford
Chester Le Street
City And County Of Kingston-Upon-Hull
Colchester
Congleton
Copeland
Coventry
Crewe and Nantwich
Denbighshire
Derwentside
Doncaster
Dudley
Easington
East Cambridgeshire
East Dorset
East Hampshire

East Riding Of Yorkshire
East Staffordshire
Eastbourne
Eastleigh
Eden
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Epping Forest
Epsom and Ewell
Fareham
Forest Heath
Gosport
Great Yarmouth
Greenwich
Gwynedd
Hackney
Haringey
Harlow
Hart
Hartlepool
Hastings
Havant
Havering
Hertsmere
Hyndburn
Isle of Wight
Kennet
Kensington and Chelsea
Kettering
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
Kingston Upon Thames
Lambeth
Leeds
Lichfield
Macclesfield
Maldon
Manchester
Medway
Mendip
Merthyr Tydfil
Merton
Middlesbrough
Neath And Port Talbot
New Forest
Newham
Newport
North East Lincolnshire
North Shropshire
North Tyneside
North Warwickshire
Norwich
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Oswestry
Pembrokeshire
Plymouth
Portsmouth City
Powys
Preston
Redcar And Cleveland
Ribble Valley
Richmond Upon Thames
Rochford
Rossendale
Rotherham
Rugby
Rushcliffe
Rushmoor
Rutland
Salisbury
Sandwell
Sedgefield
Sevenoaks
Sheffield
Shrewsbury and Atcham
Solihull
South Bedfordshire
South Gloucestershire
South Norfolk
South Kibble
South Somerset
South Tyneside
Southwark
Stevenage
Stoke On Trent
Stratford On Avon
Suffolk Coastal
Sunderland
Sutton
Swansea
Tamworth
Taunton Deane
Teesdale
Teignbridge
Telford And Wrekin
Test Valley
Thanet
Thurrock
Tonbridge and Malling
Torbay
Torfaen
Tower Hamlets
Tunbridge Wells
Wakefield
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Wansbeck
Warwick
Waveney
Waverley
Wear Valley
Welwyn Hatfield
West Devon
West Lindsey
Westminster City
Wirral
Wolverhampton
Worcester
Worthing
Wrexham

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local billing authorities are required to adopt the Valuebill interface; and what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on its adoption. [202633]

John Healey: Valuebill is a voluntary initiative aimed at improving the electronic exchange of property information between local authorities and the Valuation Office Agency. It is up to local authorities to decide whether to adopt the Valuebill interface. Valuebill is mentioned in the ODPM 2005 publication "Delivering Efficiency in Local Services: Further Guidance for Local Authorities" as an initiative to assist local authorities in increasing efficiency.

Waste Disposal Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities had performance targets in their local public service agreements or local area agreements on household waste collection, where such performance was incentivised with reward grants; and what the target was in each case. [202622]

John Healey: Reward targets appear in local public service agreements and local area agreements.

All texts of LPSAs and LAAs are in the public domain via either the Communities and Local Government website or the IdEA website (LAA) or directly from individual authorities.

Zennor Consulting Ltd

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department has made to Zennor Consulting Ltd in the last 12 months; and on what dates and for what purpose in each case. [203052]

Mr. Dhanda: Only one payment has been made to Zennor Consulting in the last 12 months. On 24 April this year the Department paid £7,500 including VAT in respect of financial services to ensure eligibility for European Regional Development Funding (ERDF).

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 8 May 2008

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church of England Website

8. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners, how often guidance provided by the Church of England on its website on prevention of theft from churches has been accessed. [204059]

Sir Stuart Bell: The main source of advice for parishes is the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office, whose comprehensive guidance on the problem of theft of metal from churches has been endorsed by the Church of England, English Heritage and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. A total of 36,000 copies have been printed and 620 more downloaded from their website, and the relevant advice sections of the site have been visited over 1,100 times.

In addition, there have been 526 hits on the Archbishops' Council's 'churchcare' website since the theft pages were added on 20 January this year, and the Council has e-mailed information on the guidance to dioceses for onward circulation to parishes via their own networks.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Trafficked Women: Regional Refuge Centres

20. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if the Government will bring forward proposals to establish regional centres to provide refuge, rehabilitation and support for women trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. [204064]

Barbara Follett: The Government have funded the Poppy Project—which takes referrals from all regions in the country, since 2003. It provides refuge and comprehensive support for women trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The project received additional resources during our recent national campaign, Operation Pentameter 2, to identify trafficked women and apprehend traffickers, which it used to develop partnerships with 17 third-sector organisations to enable them to better support trafficked women locally.

Single Equality Bill

21. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government plan to publish the Single Equality Bill. [204065]

Barbara Follett: The Government will introduce an equality Bill during this Parliament. If it is included in the draft legislative programme for the next Session of Parliament, we will publish it then.

Domestic Violence

22. **John Robertson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government have taken to support victims of domestic violence. [204066]

Barbara Follett: I am proud to say that this Government have introduced more measures to support victims of domestic violence than any other before. They include

Establishing 98 specialist domestic violence courts;

Allocating £3 million per year over the three years from 2008-07 for independent domestic violence advisers;

Multi-agency risk assessment conferences will be established across England and Wales by 2011.

Corston Report

23. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress the Government have made in implementing the recommendations of "The Corston report: A review of women with particular vulnerabilities in the criminal justice system." [204067]

Barbara Follett: The Government welcomed Baroness Corston's report, and accepted the majority of the report's recommendations. When we published our response, we committed to achieving a number of actions within six months. The Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) will make a statement on our progress this summer.

Female Entrepreneurship

24. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she next expects to meet representatives of small businesses to discuss measures to encourage female entrepreneurs. [204068]

Barbara Follett: The Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Lady Vakra, is responsible for business and competitiveness. She leads on women's enterprise issues, and regularly meets representatives of small businesses. In addition, on May 12 my right hon. and learned Friend the Minister for Women and Equality will host an event to encourage women to start their own businesses, which I will also attend. Leading women entrepreneurs and the Federation of Small Businesses have been invited.

Employment Discrimination: Pregnancy

25. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government have taken to prevent employment discrimination against women on grounds related to pregnancy. [204069]

Barbara Follett: Under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 it is unlawful to treat a woman less favourably on the ground of her pregnancy.

In October 2005, we amended the Sex Discrimination Act to make this clear and to allow employees to know their rights and employers their responsibilities.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many freedom of information requests made to the Government Equalities Office were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information since the GEO was established. [201734]

Barbara Follett: Since the establishment of the Government Equalities Office, the breakdown of freedom of information requests made is as follows.

	Number
Answered within 20 days	2
Answered within 40 days	2
Answered within 60 days	—
Not answered	1
Answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000	1

The GEO has also received a request to review a decision made to not publish information sought under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act. This was responded to within six weeks.

In anticipation of future requests, the GEO is increasing its capacity to deal effectively with freedom of information requests.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Post-Legislative Scrutiny

32. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of post-legislative scrutiny undertaken by the House and its Committees. [204047]

Helen Goodman: The Government published their plans for strengthening the process of post-legislative scrutiny of Acts in a White Paper in March. This reflects the Government's agreement with other commentators that post-enactment consideration of how Acts have worked in practice has been something of a gap in the scrutiny of Government activity. It responds in particular to the report of the Law Commission on this subject in 2006 (following an inquiry undertaken by the Commission at the Government's specific request).

Under the new process, the relevant Government Department will—from now on, beginning with Acts which received Royal Assent in 2005—be submitting to the appropriate departmental Select Committee a memorandum, three to five years after Royal Assent, summarising the steps taken in implementation of each Act and giving a preliminary assessment of how it is working out in practice.

Early-Day Motions

33. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Early-Day Motions procedure. [204048]

Helen Goodman: The Government's assessment of the procedures governing Early-Day Motions was set out in its July 2007 response to the Procedure Committee's report "Public Petitions and Early Day Motions".

The Government agreed with the conclusion of the Committee that—while there are some concerns about the number of EDMs—restricting the rules of eligibility for EDMs by reference to subject matter or by imposing a ration for each Member would not be appropriate.

Members' Correspondence

35. **David Taylor:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations she has received on the performance of Government Departments in dealing with correspondence from hon. Members in a timely manner. [204050]

Helen Goodman: My right hon. Friend receives occasional representations from Members, and is aware of points of order that have raised the issue. The Minister for the Cabinet Office has overall ministerial responsibility for this area, and I will be pleased to pass on any comments to him. The latest Cabinet Office report on departments' and agencies' performance on MPs' and Peers' Correspondence (issued by written ministerial statement on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 71WS) announced that the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons responded to 94 per cent. of correspondence within its 15-day target.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Staff: Disabilities

34. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what percentage of staff employed by the House have a disability. [204049]

Nick Harvey: On the basis of a disability questionnaire in December 2007 and subsequent information gathered, 2.67 per cent. of staff of the House have declared a disability.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Shoplifting: Prosecutions

13. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Solicitor-General what representations she has received from small businesses on the rate of prosecutions brought by the Crown Prosecution Service for shoplifting offences. [204038]

The Solicitor-General: As far as I know neither the Attorney-General's Office for the Crown Prosecution Service has received representations from small businesses.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor assured the House that the Government take very seriously the need for the whole criminal justice system to be as effective as possible in tackling crime against shopkeepers and small businesses.

I commend the hon. Member's efforts to support small businesses in her constituency.

Dangerous Driving

14. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Crown Prosecution Service takes in prosecuting cases to seek longer sentences for people convicted of dangerous driving which results in serious injury. [204039]

The Solicitor-General: Prosecutors have a general duty to assist the court when sentence is being considered, which may include advising the court of any aggravating factors, the appropriate sentencing range and, where applicable, relevant sentencing guidelines or guideline cases. The prosecutor will also inform the court when it is relevant of the effect of the crime on any victim or on the wider community. However, prosecutors cannot recommend or seek particular sentences; that is a matter for the sentencing court.

In respect of Crown court cases and more complex cases in the magistrates courts, prosecutors prepare a 'plea and sentence document'. This identifies any aggravating factors in the case, together with relevant sentencing guidelines and guideline cases, so that the court is aware of all relevant factors when sentencing.

The guideline from the Sentencing Guidelines Council on seriousness sets out aggravating factors to be taken into account when sentencing generally. It includes among the factors indicating a more than usually serious degree of harm

> "an especially serious physical or psychological effect on the victim, even if unintended."

Specifically on prosecuting cases of bad driving, including cases that result in serious injury or death, the Crown Prosecution Service published its Public Policy Statement on Prosecuting Cases of Bad Driving in December 2007. The Policy makes clear that the prosecutor has a duty to ensure that the court has all the information it needs to enable it to sentence appropriately.

Anthony Leon Peart aka Anthony Leon Joseph

15. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made on implementing the recommendations of the report on Anthony Leon Peart, aka Anthony Leon Joseph. [204040]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1WS. The cross-agency working group is meeting this week and will continue to take forward the detailed responses to the recommendations. I shall report back to the House on progress in due course.

Expert Evidence

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made by the review of expert witnesses in criminal trials; and if she will make a statement. [204033]

The Solicitor-General: The OCJR is preparing a summary of expert witness initiatives, which is expected in late spring. The CPS is about to undertake a revision of their current guidance on expert witnesses; it continues to work closely with the independent Forensic Science Regulator in setting standards; and the CPS is also working with the Legal Services Commission in its evaluation of appropriate standards for experts in criminal cases.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Climate Change

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings his Department has held with farmers to discuss the impact of climate change on agriculture. [204303]

Mr. Woolas: The Department holds regular discussions about the impact of climate change on agriculture. DEFRA's main advisory body in this area is the Rural Climate Change Forum. Membership includes the National Farmers' Union and the Country Land and Business Association, and both organisations represent farmers and land managers. Other members of the Forum are the Carbon Trust, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission, the National Trust, Natural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The Forum's remit includes advising on policy, research and communications in relation to agriculture's role in climate change mitigation and the impacts of climate change on agriculture. The forum meets three to four times a year; its last meeting was on 6 February 2008 and it meets again in June 2008.

Biofuels

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department's chief scientist has given on the sustainability of the Government's policy on biofuels; and if he will make a statement. [204165]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's chief scientific adviser gives advice to Ministers on all aspects of biofuels policy and wider climate change strategy.

The Government's commitment to biofuels is subject to their sustainability. The renewable transport fuel obligation includes a robust carbon and sustainability reporting mechanism to encourage fuel suppliers to

source the most sustainable biofuels. We recognise that reporting is only a first step: we are working with the European Commission to ensure that forthcoming EU legislation includes robust mandatory sustainability criteria for biofuels.

A review of the indirect impacts of biofuels was commissioned by the Department for Transport, and is being led by the Renewable Fuels Agency under Professor Gallagher. DEFRA's chief scientific adviser, along with other Government chief scientific advisers, will peer-review the findings prior to publication. The results of the review will inform policy on the social and environmental sustainability of biofuels.

Climate Change

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average recorded rise in *(a)* sea temperatures and *(b)* global surface temperatures has been since 2000. [201968]

Mr. Woolas: Taking short segments of temperature records (for example, considering periods shorter than a decade) emphasises year-to-year variations in climate which can be at odds with the long-term trend.

Globally, the trend of both sea surface temperatures (SST) and near-surface air temperatures is still upward. The year 2005 was the second warmest year (after 1998) in the air temperature record, which began in 1850. Eleven of the 12 warmest years in the record have occurred in the last 12 years—the exception was 1996. Since 2005, some cooling has occurred because of natural climate variations, including the current Pacific La Niña (1998 was especially warm because of a strong El Niño in that year).

(a) Sea Surface Temperature:

The most recent Met Office Hadley Centre HadSST2 analysis shows that global average SST has risen by 0.09° C per decade since 2000.

HadSST2 is the main global sea surface temperature analysis, which is produced by taking in situ measurements of SST from ships and buoys taken from 1850 to present.

(b) Near-surface Air Temperature:

The most recent Met Office Hadley Centre and climatic research unit joint analysis shows that since 2000, global average near-surface air temperature has shown a continued warming trend of 0.16° C per decade, with seven of the eight warmest years in the record since 1850 occurring since (and including) 2000. This compares to a rising trend of just over 0.15° C per decade since the mid-1970s and 0.1° C per decade between 1998 and 2007.

Further details and tables have been placed in the Library.

Note:

In the latest IPCC report, the trend in global average near-surface temperature 1979 to 2005 is 0.163° C per decade.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201737]

Joan Ruddock: The rebuild of the Lion House Building at Alnwick will be the first carbon neutral building on the DEFRA estate. It will deliver specific sustainability targets in relation to management, energy, internal environment, transport, water, materials, land use, ecology and pollution, and has integrated initiatives such as wind turbines, photovoltaic solar electric and solar thermal panels and biomass heating. The project will set the standard for all future DEFRA network estate projects.

DEFRA is currently installing advanced metering reading (AMR) on approximately 100 of its sites. The meters will capture over 90 per cent. of the DEFRA network estates utility use from electricity, gas, oil and water by the end of summer 2008. The Carbon Trust indicates that savings of up to 10 to 15 per cent. can be achieved through the implementation of initiatives realised through the analysis of AMR data, through reducing the base load, optimising the use of equipment and reducing peak usage.

DEFRA is implementing the Carbon Trust's Carbon management programme (CMP). The programme has enabled the Department to develop a systematic approach to carbon management and take a strategic approach to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions through operational improvements, reduced energy costs, staff awareness and monitoring initiatives. The CMP is integrated with DEFRA's energy efficiency programme and the numerous renewable energy projects being rolled out across the estate.

DEFRA is the first Government Department to access Salix Funding—a revolving ring fenced fund, which has been allocated to the CMP. Financial savings from CMP projects will be fed back into the fund for further projects.

DEFRA has installed 17 power perfector units across its estate to optimise voltage, therefore reducing electricity consumption.

A breakdown of energy costs:

Energy expenditure (electricity, gas, oil)

	£
2006-07	8,535,523
2005-06	6,305,267

Floods: Warnings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the take-up was for registration with the Environment Agency for flood warnings in each of the last five years; and whether flood warnings extend to business properties. [203920]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of properties currently registered with Flood Warnings Direct (FWD). Prior to 2006 the Environment Agency operated an Automatic Voice Messaging (AVG) system which delivered pre-recorded warnings to those who

registered with the service. The AVG system provided a phone number for registered properties and therefore did not distinguish between home and business.

The AVG system was administered independently by Environment Agency area offices and therefore no year on year data of registered membership for this service is held nationally.

The Environment Agency transferred approximately 120,000 customers from its AVM system onto the new national system prior to FWD going live in January 2006.

	Homes	*Businesses*	*Total registered*
1995 to 2005	—	—	120,000
2006	103,842	6,773	230,615
2007	168,117	16,305	304,422
2008	208,972	23,224	352,196

Weather Forecasts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs where the pilots on the joint work of the Environment Agency and Meteorological Office on the prediction of extreme weather events will take place; and if he will include Gloucestershire as a pilot area. [201780]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

The Met Office and Environment Agency are planning to launch a pilot alert service for extreme rainfall events in July 2008 to help the emergency response community mitigate the impacts of such events. The Met Office is working closely with the Environment Agency to finalise the details of the pilot service for England and Wales, including Gloucestershire. The Met Office also intends to make the pilot service available more widely in the UK, and will work closely with the responsible authorities in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

TRANSPORT

Cars

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars have been registered in Great Britain in the last 10 years. [204204]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number (in thousands) of cars newly registered in Great Britain in each of the last 10 years was as follows.

	Number of cars newly registered (Thousand)
1998	2,262
1999	2,257
2000	2,337
2001	2,586
2002	2,682
2003	2,646
2004	2,599
2005	2,443
2006	2,340
2007	2,390
Total (1998 to 2007)	24,542

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for her Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200012]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Services provided by polling companies to the Department for Transport in 2007-08 are summarised in the following tables. These included on-going surveys (table A), ad-hoc surveys (table B) and qualitative research (table C).

(A) Ongoing surveys

Division/agency	*Survey/opinion poll*	*(i) Firm*
DFT	British social attitudes survey	NatCen
DFT	Bus passenger satisfaction survey	GfK NOP
DFT	Public attitudes towards road pricing	ONS
DFT	Public attitudes towards climate change.	ONS
DFT	THINK! Tracking Research	BMRB
DFT	Child and parents advertising	Murmur
DFT	Climate Change Pre and Post advertising tracking	BMRB
DFT	Act on CO2 campaign awareness tracking	BMRB
DFT	Directgov motoring awareness and usage omnibus	BMRB
DFT	Operators Survey 2007	Ipsos-MORI
DFT	Customer Satisfaction Survey—GCDA	Ipsos MORI
DFT	Citizen's Panel	GFK NOP
HA	National road users satisfaction surveys	Faber Maunsell
HA	Area road users satisfaction surveys	Faber Maunsell
HA	Satisfaction with traffic officer service	Faber Maunsell
HA	Measuring improvements in network and information services	Faber Maunsell
DSA	Candidate Satisfaction Survey	Ipsos-MORI
DSA	Business Customer Satisfaction Survey	Ipsos-MORI
DSA	PDI Satisfaction Survey	Ipsos-MORI

(A) Ongoing surveys

Division/agency	Survey/opinion poll	(i) Firm
MCA	Coastguard Customer Satisfaction Survey (ongoing but not run in 2007-08)	Amey PMG
MCA	Registry of Shipping and Seamen	Amey PMG
VCA	Type Approval Customer Satisfaction	Metra Martech
DVLA	DVLA Call Centre Mystery Shopper Research	Vocall
DVLA	Private Motorist Survey	Beaufort Research

(B) Ad-hoc surveys 2007-08

Division/agency	Survey/opinion poll	(i) Firm
DFT	Public attitude towards car sharing	NatCen
DFT	Public attitude towards buses and concessionary fares	ONS
DFT	Public attitudes towards Aviation	ONS
DFT	Post tracking Teen MTV Campaign	SMRC Childwise
DFT	Pre and post tracking Parents' Campaign	SMRC Childwise
DFT	THINK! Parents Campaign	Virtual surveys
DFT	Drink Drive	Davies McKerr
DFT	Driving for Work	Firefish/AMV
DFT	THINK! Seatbelts	TRL
DFT	Customers Expectations of Service Standards	ORC
DFT	Consumer customers' channel choice	TNS
DFT	Commercial customers' channel choice	Simpson Carpenter
DFT	Survey of the UK element of EU provision of drink drive rehabilitations schemes	TRL
DFT	Neighbourhood Road Safety initiatives project—surveys	University College London (lead supplier) University of Surrey University of the West of England, University of Wales Swansea, Child Accident Prevention Trust
DFT	Demand for cars and their attributes	BMRB—conducted the survey element
DFT	Use of Advanced Cabin Baggage X-ray equipment.	QinetiQ
DFT	Analysis for Heathrow Consultation	Ipsos-MORI and Detica
DFT	Survey of Blue Badge Holders	Faber Maunsell
DFT	Survey of Blue Badge Holders attitudes and behaviours	BMRB
DFT	Wider public's view of Blue Badge scheme	Faber Maunsell
HA	Satisfaction with traffic management trial at junctions 19 and 12 of M25	Faber Maunsell
HA	Highways Agency Travel Information Services Omnibus	GfK NOP
DSA	Driver CPC research	Ipsos MORI
VOSA	Drivers and fitters annual Customer satisfactions survey	Ipsos-MORI
VOSA	2 Stations test trial	Beaufort Research
DVLA	Local Office Customer Survey	MORI
DVLA	Electronic Delivery Channel Research	Beaufort Research
DVLA	Theft Resistant Number Plate	Beaufort Research
DVLA	EVL Postcard Research	Beaufort Research
DVLA	3D Verification by VISA	MRUK
DVLA	Ten Year Renewal Phase 2 Post Office Research	Beaufort Research
DVLA	Motoring Brand Awareness Omnibus Research	TNS (via COI)

(C) Qualitative research 2007-08

Division/agency	Projects	(i) Firm
DFT	Attitudes and motivations of teleworkers	NatCen
DFT	Travel needs behaviours and aspirations of Disabled People	NatCen
DFT	Directgov Motoring Usability research	Virtual Surveys
DFT	Transport Office/Business Link Usability research	Virtual Surveys
DFT	Public acceptabiiity of Road Pricing	BMRB
DFT	Public Acceptability of New Technologies	Accent
DFT	The Role of the Car	NatCen
DFT	Qualitative depth interviews with Blue Badge Holders	Faber Maunsell
DFT	Exploring Public attitudes to personal carbon dioxide emission information	BMRB
DFT	Understanding travel needs, behaviour and aspirations of people in later life	NatCen

(C) Qualitative research 2007-08

Division/agency	Projects	(i) Firm
DFT	Understanding travel aspirations, needs and behaviour of young adults	NatCen
DFT	Accessibility Planning Evaluation scoping study	Atkins and CRSP
DFT	Attitudes to Climate change and Barriers/motivations to behavioural change	People, science and Policy
DVLA	Ten Year Renewal Focus Group Research	Beaufort Research
DVLA	EVL Creative Advertising Focus Group Research	Beaufort Research
DVLA	EVL Web Design Focus Group Research	Beaufort Research
HA	Mystery Shopping of HA Information Services	Faber Maunsell
HA	Evaluation of Think Ahead Move Ahead booklet	Faber Maunsell
HA	Evaluation of Think Ahead Move Ahead booklet (Part 2)	Faber Maunsell
HA	VMS Accuracy	Faber Maunsell
VOSA	Service agents Qualitative Research	Simpson Carter

Driving Tests

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria she uses to determine whether driving centres should be approved for closure. [202361]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* Decisions regarding the location of individual driving test centres are taken by the Driving Standards Agency.

The agency is a trading fund. As such, it is generally obliged to ensure that its operating costs are met from fee income. It seeks, therefore, to strike a reasonable balance between providing readily accessible driver testing services and the resultant costs that must be passed on to its customers.

In reaching decisions about car practical test centre location, the DSA must take account of the following ministerially agreed guidance on distance criteria at each level of population density:

Population density	Distance criteria
>=1,250/km²	No more than 7 miles
101-1,249/km²	No more than 20 miles
0-100/km²	No more than 30 miles

In respect of motorcycle practical test centre location, the DSA requires that most customers should be able to reach a motorcycle testing facility within 45 minutes, travelling no more than 20 miles.

When considering the closure of a driving test centre, DSA follows the "Code of Practice on Written Consultations—Driving Test Centres" which is available on the DSA's website and was agreed by Ministers.

First Great Western: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the rail improvement plan for First Great Western. [201431]

Mr. Tom Harris: A Remedial Agreement has been contractualised with First Great Western, the details of which will be on the Department's website in due course.

M20: Noise

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1445W, on M20: Noise, how many sites have been designated as high priority for resurfacing. [203885]

Mr. Tom Harris: A total of 26 stretches of concrete carriageway were identified in April 2003 in England as high priority for resurfacing with quieter materials.

M25: Cost-Effectiveness

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the cost-benefit analysis which informed her decision on whether to include the M25 widening projects in the national feasibility study into rolling out active traffic management. [181875]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have placed the documents and subsequent analysis on this matter in the Library of the House and on the Department's website.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women died in car accidents in each year since 2000 where the driver was (i) male and (ii) female and aged 21 or under. [204492]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female car occupant fatalities in reported road accidents in 2000 to 2006 where the driver was (i) male and (ii) female and aged 21 years or under are shown in the table.

Number of fatalities

	0 to 21-year-old male car driver		0 to 21-year-old female car driver	
	Male fatality	Female fatality	Male fatality	Female fatality
2000	312	63	18	42
2001	354	64	24	50

	Number of fatalities			
	0 to 21-year-old male car driver		0 to 21-year-old female car driver	
	Male fatality	Female fatality	Male fatality	Female fatality
2002	332	64	18	52
2003	373	59	17	41
2004	349	64	21	48
2005	365	71	19	63
2006	375	61	21	61

Roads: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1421W, on Roads: Construction, when she expects the information on carbon impacts of Highways Agency road schemes to be published on the Highways Agency website and placed in the Library. [201268]

Mr. Tom Harris: We expect to publish the information in relation to the carbon impacts of Highways Agency road schemes in the summer.

Transport: Sustainable Development

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice she has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received from the Chief Scientist at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on sustainability and the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation; and if she will make a statement. [204164]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have always made clear that its biofuel policies must be based on the best available scientific evidence. We have asked the Renewable Fuels Agency to lead a review of the emerging evidence on the wider, indirect impacts of biofuel production. Professor Bob Watson, together with other Government chief scientific advisers, has been asked to peer-review its findings. The review is due to report in June.

OLYMPICS

London 2012: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of staff working for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games are *(a)* women and *(b)* men. [204123]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is a private company, and has a strong diversity and inclusion policy on its recruitment and retention of staff and volunteers that covers gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age. This is regularly monitored for its effectiveness.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what consultations the Government have undertaken with financial institutions on financing the 2012 Olympics; and what the cost of such consultations was. [203651]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive has received informal advice, at no cost from financial institutions, on the possibilities for financing the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre and the Olympic Village are developer-led projects in which the developer is responsible for bank and equity funding. The Olympic Delivery Authority has taken and will continue to take appropriate advice on the nature of these transactions but does not have direct contractual relations with any financial institutions, and consequently has not paid for any advice from them.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the Creative Economy Strategy. [203879]

Margaret Hodge: The 'Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy' document was deposited in the House Libraries, via a written ministerial statement, on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 58WS.

Arts Council England: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1959W, on Arts Council England: Finance, what *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital allocations have been made for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [203005]

Margaret Hodge: Resource and capital allocations for Arts Council England (ACE) are set out in the following table.

		£000
	Resource	Capital
2008-09	428,955	1,950
2009-10	443,435	1,550
2010-11	466,955	1,550

Culture Leadership Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the performance of the cultural leadership programme; and if he will make a statement. [204162]

Margaret Hodge: The Cultural Leadership Programme (CLP) is formed from the Partnership of Arts Council England, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Creative and Cultural Skills. Funding has been channelled through Arts Council England, which has assessed the programme as part of the ongoing review of its work and priorities. A mix of formal and informal learning opportunities has been created and is supported by the programme, including placements, courses, online information, advice and guidance; as well as work-based support including coaching and mentoring opportunities.

The programme is having a good impact on leadership development, in terms of both the new opportunities offered to emerging, mid-career and established leaders, and increasing awareness of the benefits of targeted leadership development for these important areas of the UK life and economy.

The programme has been delivered by a very small team, ensuring that an investment of over 85 per cent. of the £12 million made available has been spent directly on activities that will support leaders, and keeping administration and support costs to a minimum. The programme was launched just two years ago in June 2006, and the first phase ends in June 2008. The Department expects to receive a formal evaluation of the CLP soon after the end of this first phase.

Culture Leadership Programme: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what resources *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(c)* the Arts Council and *(d)* Creative and Cultural Skills plan to make available to the Cultural Leadership programme in each of the next three years. [204163]

Margaret Hodge: In the period 2008-11 all financial support for the Cultural Leadership Programme will come from the settlement to the Arts Council. The Arts Council has agreed figures of £3,000,000 for 2008-09; £3,500,000 for 2009-10 and £3,500,000 for 2010-11.

There will be no financial contribution from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, Creative and Cultural Skills or the DCMS, although they will continue to steer the development of the Programme through the Cultural Leadership Programme Delivery Partnership.

Culture Leadership Programme: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* hits and *(b)* unique visitors the Cultural Leadership programme's website received in each of the last 12 months. [204161]

Margaret Hodge: The following table details the visits made to the Cultural Leadership Programme's website over the last 12 months.

Month	*Hits*	*Unique visits*
2007		
April	117,900	2,748
May	65,065	1,563
June	79,511	1,963
July	90,865	2,612
August	96,589	2,583
September	61,274	1,919
October	88,062	2,573
November	101,272	2,862
December	80,229	2,401
2008		
January	114,119	2,941
February	133,280	3,439
March	58,733	1,798
April	105,867	3,178
Total	1,192,766	32,580

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204113]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport spent £3,415.27 on carbon offsetting for the year 2006-07. This was the first payment of this type and was made to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund, which is managed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Digital Broadcasting: Rural Areas

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to address the digital divide in rural areas. [202154]

Andy Burnham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales has been appointed as the Minister for Digital Inclusion and will work with other Departments, including mine, to co-ordinate policies and develop a coherent strategy to ensure that all citizens, especially the disadvantaged, benefit from the use of digital technologies. My Department is committed to addressing the digital divide where it is economically and technologically feasible to do so.

Digital Switchover: Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the research on return path capability amongst the elderly and *(b)* the drafted return path costed option annex referred to in the minutes of the Emerging Technologies Group meeting on 27 February in relation to the digital switchover assistance scheme. [203804]

Andy Burnham: The Emerging Technologies Group (ETG) was told that research on return path usage by the elderly existed, but the group has not yet had sight of this or any related research. No steps have been taken by the ETG to produce a costed option for including return path functionality within set-top-box equipment.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W.

Monuments: VAT

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the VAT Relief on Memorials scheme in each of the next three years. [204146]

Margaret Hodge: The Memorials Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred by charities and faith groups in establishing or repairing public memorials. The scheme is demand-led and it is not possible, therefore, to estimate future costs accurately.

Paralympic Games

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the Playground to Podium Paralympics strategy paper to be published. [203011]

Andy Burnham: Sport England has advised that the Playground to Podium Steering Group is in the process of making final amendments to the framework following a consultation process with national governing bodies of sport and Steering Group members. The final framework will be published prior to the programme launch in September, in line with the commencement of the new school year.

The framework provides a clear rationale for the selection of, and investment in, a focused number of sports bodies that can support the delivery of a disability pathway for their sports from playground through to podium.

Sport England has taken responsibility on behalf of the Playground to Podium Steering group to co-ordinate the assessment and selection of sports, and has advised that sports bodies will be informed whether they have been selected in early May. Applications for funding will then be invited from the appropriate national governing bodies.

Regional Sports Boards: Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department paid to the chairmen and chairwomen of regional sports boards in England in respect of their board duties in the last 12 months. [204148]

Margaret Hodge: The following payments were made.

Part 1: Payments to RSB

Chairs		*April 2007 to March 2008*	
RSB Chair	*Region*	*Salary*	*Travel and Subsistence*
Cantle-Jones T.	North East	8,040	1,631
Rowley P. W.	North East	3,576	0
Price P.	Yorkshire	10,720	0
Jackson L. C.	East Midlands	10,720	0
Castle S.	East	10,000	566
Lewis P.	London	6,253	0
Brewer J	London	4,505	142
McAnally M.	South East	10,720	1,646
Roddy G.	South West	11,413	3,063
Mirza R.	West Midlands	10,720	3,479
Worthington A.	North West	10,720	3,844
Total		97,388	14,371

Religious Buildings: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the Listed Places of Worship scheme in each of the next three years. [204147]

Margaret Hodge: The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship, and to clocks, pews, bells and organs that are fixtures in such buildings. The scheme is demand-led and it is not possible, therefore, to estimate future costs with precision.

Royal Ballet and Opera: Prices

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the affordability of seats for performances by the *(a)* Royal Ballet and *(b)* Royal Opera; and if he will make a statement. [201815]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has not assessed the affordability of seats for performances by the Royal Ballet and Royal Opera.

The cost of seats is a matter for individual arts organisations to decide.

Arts Council England has also not assessed the affordability of seats for performances at either the Royal Ballet or the Royal Opera House. Arts Council England has recently produced guidance for arts organisations on how to maximise revenue while minimising the risk of price becoming a barrier that prevents people from attending or participating.

I am arranging for copies of 'Call it a tenner. The role of pricing in the arts' to be placed in the House Libraries.

Tourism Strategy Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department provided for the Tourism Strategy Fund in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [203014]

Margaret Hodge [*holding answer 1 May 2008*]: The Tourism Strategy Fund was a specific budget used to fund a number of tourism support initiatives arising from the policy document 'Tomorrow's Tourism' in 1999. The Department spent £30,000 in 2004-05, and no money has been spent through this fund since April 2005.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how long an individual must claim unemployment benefits before becoming eligible to go on a training course offered by Jobcentre Plus. [202776]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 8 May 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how long an individual must claim unemployment benefits before they are eligible to go on a training course offered by Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Most people who claim Jobseeker's Allowance find work very quickly and only need general information, advice and guidance on how best to look for work. However, for those who need additional help, training courses are available at different stages, depending upon the needs of the individual:

People with an obvious literacy, numeracy or language need are identified at the new claims stage and encouraged to take immediate steps to address those needs through the Learning and Skills Council's Employment Skills Programme or other provision available locally.

People who need additional help with jobsearch skills, confidence and motivation and 'soft' skills associated with the world of work can access help through Programme Centres after 26 weeks unemployment, although earlier access is available where such help is clearly needed to have a realistic chance of finding work.

At 26 weeks, a fast-track assessment tool is used to screen people for any basic skills need not previously identified, and where appropriate, people are referred for help through the Employment and Skills Programme.

Full-time education and training is available through the New Deal, participation in which is mandatory for young people after six months unemployment; and for people aged 25 and over when they have been unemployed for 18 out of the previous 21 months. That said, immediate/early access is available where it is clear the customer is particularly disadvantaged in the labour market and the prospect of finding work is much less likely without additional help.

Pre-employment training may also be available through Local Employment Partnerships through which participating employers have committed to provide more job opportunities for people who are finding it particularly difficult to find work, such as longer-term unemployed people or people living in areas of high unemployment. In return, Jobcentre Plus and other partners, for example the Learning and Skills Council prepare people for work through a range of measures, which may include pre-employment training to prepare people for the sort of jobs available locally. Once in work, ongoing development of skills is encouraged through skills advice and support, e.g. through Train to Gain.

Building upon the success of New Deal and Local Employment Partnerships, there are plans to develop and implement an integrated employment and skills service as announced in "Ready for work: full employment in our generation" and "Ready to Work, Skilled for Work: Unlocking Britain's Talent". A key part of this will be better and earlier screening to identify jobseekers with a skills need that is a major barrier to employment and referring them to a full skills heath-check and then appropriate remedial provision.

Pension Credit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners received pension credit in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08; [200445]

(2) how many pensioners received the guarantee credit in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08. [200446]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1419W, which gives the number of pensioners in receipt of pension credit and the number of pensioners in receipt of the guarantee credit each year from 2003 to 2007.

Rented Housing: Cambridgeshire

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of how much and what proportion of private rented accommodation in *(a)* Cambridge city council area, *(b)* the South Cambridgeshire district council area, *(c)* Cambridge constituency, *(d)* South Cambridgeshire constituency and *(e)* South East Cambridgeshire constituency are available at or below the median rent established by the Rent Service for the relevant broad rental market area. [204174]

Mr. Plaskitt: The local housing allowance (LHA) is a median value calculated from a list of rents, for the number of bedrooms, collected from the private rented sector in a broad rental market area (BRMA). As the LHA is a median value, the middle value from the list of rents held in ascending order, it will always ensure that half of the properties in the BRMA will be affordable for housing benefit customers.

The Rent Service determines the median rents for each BRMA. We do not hold data that would show the proportion of the properties available at or below the median rent that lie within each local authority or constituency.

Social Security Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what benefits administered by his Department are uprated in line with a measure of *(a)* prices and *(b)* earnings broken down by measure used; [200646]

(2) what benefits administered by his Department are uprated annually under statute broken down by those uprated in line with *(a)* prices and *(b)* earnings; and if he will make a statement. [200647]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The powers to review and alter the rate of benefits are contained in the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (Sections 150 to 154). Sections 150 and 150A of that Act prescribe the benefits that must be reviewed on an annual basis and how they are to be uprated. The annual change in the retail prices index is used to uprate the following benefits, which, by statute, must be reviewed and up-rated annually at least in line with prices;

State Pensions (with the exception of the age addition);

Additional Pensions paid with State Pension and Widows' Benefits;

Increments: for the deferment of State Pension and Guaranteed Minimum Pensions;

Incapacity Benefit;

Attendance Allowance;

Severe Disablement Allowance;

Carer's Allowance;

Disability Living Allowance;

Industrial Injuries Benefits (including old cases);

Adult and Child Dependants Increases (The Child Dependants Increase is fixed in practice);

Widows Benefit and Bereavement Benefit rates (with the exception of Bereavement Payment), which are currently linked to the basic State Pension rate.

The standard minimum guarantee in pension credit must be reviewed and increased at least in line with earnings. The usual measure is the May to July headline figure for the whole economy, seasonally adjusted and including bonuses. However, for the April 2008 uprating, the increase was 4.2 per cent. in line with the Budget 2007 announcement which more than keeps pace with prices and earnings.

During the next Parliament we will re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest.

For the full list of Social Security benefits and the basis on which they are currently up-rated I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 857W.

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 162350, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on incapacity benefit claimants. [171136]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 577-8W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Childbirth

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many births there were in each year since 1978. [203548]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not collect birth statistics. Latest Office for National Statistics figures relating to births in England and Wales are as follows.

	Number of live births in England and Wales
1978	596,418
1979	638,028
1980	656,234
1981	634,492
1982	625,931
1983	629,134
1984	636,818
1985	656,417
1986	661,018
1987	681,511
1988	693,577
1989	687,725
1990	706,140
1991	699,217
1992	689,656
1993	673,467
1994	664,726
1995	648,138
1996	649,485
1997	643,095
1998	635,901
1999	621,872
2000	604,441
2001	594,634
2002	596,122
2003	621,469
2004	639,721
2005	645,835
2006	669,601

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Research Establishment: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding she allocated to the Building Research Establishment in each of the last three years. [202641]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not allocate funding to the Building Research Establishment (BRE). However the BRE is one of the Department's preferred contractors under its framework agreements and has undertaken work for the Department both as part of these frameworks and under contracts let outside of them. The total payments made for work undertaken by BRE for the Department in each of the last three years is:

	£000
2005-06	4,261
2006-07	4,532
2007-08	2,900

Council Tax: Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average Band D council tax precept was for fire authorities in England in 1998-99. [203060]

John Healey: The average Band D council tax precept for the seven precepting fire authorities in England in 1998-99 was £26.56.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1411W, on property: valuation, whether the Valuation Office Agency considers the presence of a *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent traveller encampment near a domestic dwelling to be material in determining the level of council tax. [202991]

John Healey: When undertaking a valuation to arrive at, or amend, a council tax banding, all material factors that affect the open market value of a dwelling will be taken into account, as required by the Council Tax (Situation and Valuation of Dwellings) Regulations 1992.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, on council tax: valuation, when the Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England) met. [203046]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency's Programme Board for the now postponed council tax revaluation generally met monthly between March 2003 and November 2005.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W and of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1390W, on council tax: valuation, if she will place in the Library copies of minutes of the meetings the Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England) prior to 22nd November 2005 redacting the minutes in the same manner as those for 22 November 2005. [203068]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1415W.

Councillors: Complaints

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether complaints about breaches of the councillors' code of conduct can be made anonymously under the new scheme. [203040]

John Healey: Yes. Local authority standards committees will be able to consider anonymous complaints.

However, standards committees must have regard to guidance issued by the Standards Board for England, which stresses that anonymous complaints should only be considered in limited circumstances, such as when they are accompanied by evidence that the allegation is of an exceptionally serious or significant matter.

The guidance also advises local authorities to publish a statement setting out how they will deal with anonymous complaints.

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the role of the relevant Shareholder Executive is in determining the definition of the public tasks of her Department's agencies. [203463]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Shareholder Executive is responsible for advising Ministers from this Department directly on the management of their shareholding and financial interests in Ordnance Survey, a Government Department and executive agency in its own right. The executive also advises the Department on its interests in two other trading funds, the Fire Service College and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

In April 2007, Ministers asked Ordnance Survey and the Shareholder Executive to work together to prepare a more precise articulation of Ordnance Survey's public task as set out in the Ordnance Survey Framework Document 2004. This work was undertaken between April and June 2007, and Ministers approved the revised public task document in July 2007.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor spent on entertaining in each of the last five years. [203738]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1594W.

The Department does not record expenditure for entertainment on its finance systems and the figures in the earlier reply relate to hospitality. Changes in coding parameters on the Departments financial systems mean that figures for earlier years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

EC Grants and Loans: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from Castle Point borough council on the use of European Union funding for the Charfleets green business initiative; and if she will make a statement. [203662]

John Healey: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has not received any representations from Castle Point borough council on the use of European Union funding, for the Charfleets green business initiative.

Floods: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1405W., on floods: repair and maintenance, if she will undertake an assessment of the availability of plumbers, electricians, plasterers and other essential workers necessary to complete repairs to flood damaged properties. [202968]

John Healey: We have no plans to carry out such an assessment.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her target is for the number of transactions under each of the *(a)* social market homebuy, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy and *(c)* Open Market Homebuy schemes annually. [204521]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have clearly stated in the Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable', that we will provide 25,000 shared ownership and shared equity homes a year over the next three years. We have not set individual targets for Open Market HomeBuy or NewBuild HomeBuy to ensure flexibility within the programme. Social HomeBuy is a demand-led product and as such no targets are associated with this programme.

Housing: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes have been built in each London *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area since 1997. [203384]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on new build completions by constituency is not held centrally. The following table provides the figures as reported by local authorities:

New build completions by London boroughs 1997-98 to 2006-07

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
London	13,623	14,426	13,678	14,492	13,927	15,670	19,394	24,063	18,809	21,997
Barking and Dagenham	45	89	127	426	164	222	263	576	467	684
Barnet	637	703	818	656	471	712	902	1,326	597	377
Bexley	453	208	206	482	223	271	773	221	140	212
Brent	30	81	168	525	476	850	536	390	251	632
Bromley	115	234	208	332	359	203	269	874	497	484
Camden	237	451	323	405	257	77	162	499	400	378
City of London	235	163	301	165	105	67	213	45	41	2
Croydon	575	382	332	242	272	616	289	391	400	845
Ealing	773	456	273	140	324	236	730	605	702	1,325
Enfield	600	311	189	920	1,860	606	379	524	703	998
Greenwich	431	536	980	586	1,099	1,410	878	1,576	1,073	1,134
Hackney	708	250	404	762	612	333	205	525	353	420
Hammersmith and Fulham	220	144	106	75	26	78	135	281	131	202
Haringey	199	88	109	185	178	172	78	569	79	35
Harrow	185	151	97	110	93	547	291	238	275	320
Havering	138	250	284	274	307	263	271	457	486	650
Hillingdon	392	212	459	564	288	391	426	473	306	194
Hounslow	411	632	260	264	292	459	998	111	1,192	1,556
Islington	151	374	451	257	214	283	220	166	383	743
Kensington and Chelsea	184	196	228	157	130	269	602	120	75	139
Kingston upon Thames	838	446	336	271	200	207	405	425	188	172
Lambeth	339	207	149	231	284	392	224	552	659	942
Lewisham	453	360	251	151	289	483	447	188	164	457
Merton	108	260	353	171	508	306	115	502	948	646
Newham	364	312	518	484	722	402	981	553	796	471
Redbridge	382	100	501	159	301	510	419	650	963	513
Richmond upon Thames	201	625	175	157	147	269	361	316	249	159
Southwark	834	688	336	323	363	384	619	1,832	1,120	512
Sutton	338	302	257	441	191	372	272	670	400	455
Tower Hamlets	834	941	1,268	1,324	1,429	1,486	1,916	2,952	1,918	1,904
Waltham Forest	846	836	196	812	129	345	191	293	256	394
Wandsworth	264	551	617	212	336	625	483	1,260	338	722
Westminster	671	744	807	1,315	552	842	784	421	357	211

Source:
New build completions from P2 returns submitted by local authorities and the National House Building Council (NHBC). Regional totals include imputation for missing returns from local authorities. The local authority level figures are as reported and do not include imputation estimates. Regional totals may not equal the sum of the local authority totals.

Housing: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built in each parliamentary constituency in the North West in each year since 1997. [202729]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 30 April 2008]:* Information on housing completions is collected on the basis of local authorities' administrative boundaries, and on the information provided by local authorities, not by constituency boundaries.

The following table shows housing completions for the period 1998 to 2007 in the local authorities that make up the North-West of England.

New build completions for local authorities in the North West Region

Local authority	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Allerdale	274	126	224	624	215	167	89	133	277
Barrow-in-Furness	123	120	142	385	150	107	74	108	118
Blackburn with Darwen UA	546	312	524	1,382	407	347	221	294	139
Blackpool UA	246	149	227	622	206	141	290	135	99
Bolton	516	804	655	1,975	628	596	589	515	892
Burnley	229	249	260	738	77	132	81	159	81
Bury	314	300	308	922	439	400	403	673	589
Carlisle	360	316	368	1,044	383	366	341	349	264
Chester	201	281	200	682	308	293	143	212	76
Chorley	404	467	412	1,283	464	393	305	349	253
Congleton	486	399	322	1,207	377	255	284	297	180
Copeland	123	180	197	500	144	149	264	498	176
Crewe and Nantwich	624	612	610	1,846	513	589	591	580	553
Eden	148	159	113	420	228	132	178	62	125
Ellesmere Port and Neston	201	173	58	432	77	126	207	309	128
Fylde	250	244	241	735	248	327	215	127	210
Halton UA	154	266	327	747	246	728	427	594	426
Hyndburn	208	212	178	598	164	169	170	259	140
Knowsley	166	194	275	635	108	398	385	221	539
Lancaster	283	335	284	902	459	500	192	78	101
Liverpool	1,343	1,254	1,406	4,003	827	1,041	1,472	2,734	2,091
Macclesfield	325	311	387	1,023	379	296	275	322	183
Manchester	1,367	1,453	1,712	4,532	2,787	1,770	924	1,024	1,355
Oldham	634	477	414	1,525	370	496	286	362	530
Pendle	114	190	207	511	159	158	177	117	206
Preston	566	274	360	1,200	82	289	718	395	177
Ribble Valley	164	133	198	495	187	226	157	74	71
Rochdale	533	508	381	1,422	449	154	247	463	232
Rossendale	206	133	59	398	158	208	318	181	134
Salford	590	524	636	1,750	482	810	1,214	1,490	495
Sefton	669	468	487	1,624	475	491	127	291	200
South Lakeland	354	317	256	927	282	154	162	253	283
South Ribble	494	428	237	1,159	523	269	345	453	229
St. Helens	555	417	473	1,445	434	441	840	286	301
Stockport	237	398	292	927	171	290	208	405	352
Tameside	289	365	588	1,242	442	333	410	707	728
Trafford	378	238	214	830	509	671	751	668	504
Vale Royal	482	729	617	1,828	533	365	297	224	150
Warrington UA	385	519	473	1,377	481	529	619	1,054	711
West Lancashire	405	330	340	1,075	411	256	422	143	159
Wigan	1,309	1,147	922	3,378	624	850	830	1,000	1,348
Wirral	849	685	632	2,166	648	517	435	495	516
Wyre	268	324	493	1,085	368	381	208	198	207
Region	18,372	17,520	17,709	53,601	17,622	17,310	16,891	19,291	16,528

Housing: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for changes to permitted development rights with regards to household extensions; and how the proposed changes will amend planning rules on loft extensions. [203051]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government intend to bring into force amendments to householder permitted development rights, including those for roof extensions, in October this year. The proposed regime will keep the current approach that allows householders roof extensions of up to no more than 40 cubic metres for terraced houses and 50 cubic metres for detached and semi-detached properties. An extension will not be permitted on a roof that fronts the house and is visible from the highway. Rear loft extensions will have to be set back at least 20 centimetres from the eaves.

A key change for all types of household extension is that the overall household volume restriction will be removed. This means that householders will no longer have to apply for planning permission for loft extensions if they have already extended at ground level.

Roof extensions will not be permitted development in certain sensitive areas such as conservation areas and national parks.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assumptions are made on the amount of waste and recycling produced each week in litres by family homes in determining the Code for Sustainable Homes recommendations on household waste storage capacity. [204722]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Code for Sustainable Homes does not make any assumptions on the amount of waste and recycling produced by family homes. The Code's Technical Guidance published in April 2008 contains mandatory minimum standards for the waste and recycling component for all levels of the Code. It states that space allocated for waste storage should be able to hold containers, the volume of which must be at least the minimum recommended by British Standard BS 5906 (British Standards, 2005) i.e. 100 litres volume for a single bedroom dwelling, with a further 70 litres volume for each additional bedroom.

A local authority recycling scheme offering containers equal to or greater than this volume would meet the requirements under the Code for Sustainable Homes, providing adequate external space is allocated to accommodate them. If the local authority provides containers with a smaller volume, or if no local authority scheme exists, the developer will need to ensure and demonstrate that the minimum recommended volume is met if they are to meet the requirements under the Code.

The Code also states that all containers must be accessible to disabled people, particularly wheelchair users, and sited on a hard, level surface. To allow easy access, the containers must not be stacked.

INTERREG Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1203W, on the France (Channel)-England Programme Managing Authority, which local authorities in England fall within the programme area. [202990]

John Healey: The following local authorities in England fall within the area covered by the France (Channel)—England cross border co-operation programme:

South East England

Brighton and Hove City Council
East Sussex County Council
Eastbourne Borough Council
Hastings Borough Council
Lewes District Council
Rother District Council
Wealden District Council
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
East Hampshire District Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Fareham Borough Council
Gosport Borough Council
Hampshire County Council
Hart District Council
Havant Borough Council
New Forest District Council
Portsmouth City Council
Rushmoor Borough Council
Southampton City Council
Test Valley Borough Council
Winchester City Council
Isle of Wight Council
Waverley Borough Council
Woking Borough Council
Adur District Council
Arun District Council
Chichester District Council
Crawley Borough Council
Horsham District Council
Mid Sussex District Council
West Sussex County Council
Worthing Borough Council
Ashford Borough Council
Canterbury City Council
Dartford Borough Council
Dover District Council
Gravesham Borough Council
Kent County Council
Maidstone Borough Council
Medway Council
Sevenoaks District Council
Shepway District Council
Swale Borough Council
Thanet District Council
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Elmbridge Borough Council
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Guildford Borough Council
Mole Valley District Council
Tandridge District Council
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Runnymede Borough Council
Spelthorne Borough Council
Surrey County Council
Surrey Heath Borough Council

East of England

Breckland District Council
Broadland District Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
Norfolk County Council
North Norfolk District Council
Norwich City Council
South Norfolk Council
Babergh District Council
Forest Heath District Council
Ipswich Borough Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Suffolk County Council

Waveney District Council
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Peterborough City Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Basildon District Council
Braintree District Council
Brentwood Borough Council
Castle Point Borough Council
Chelmsford Borough Council
Colchester Borough Council
Epping Forest District Council
Essex County Council
Harlow District Council
Maldon District Council
Rochford District Council
Southend on Sea Borough Council
Tendring District Council
Thurrock Council
Uttlesford District Council

South West England

Caradon District Council
Carick District Council
Cornwall County Council
Kerrier District Council
North Cornwall District Council
Penwith District Council
Restormel Borough Council
Isle of Scilly Council
Devon County Council
East Devon District Council
Exeter City Council
Mid Devon District Council
North Devon District Council
Plymouth City Council
Bournemouth Borough Council
Christchurch Borough Council
Dorset County Council
East Dorset District Council
North Dorset District Council
Purbeck District Council
West Dorset District Council
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Mendip District Council
Sedgemoor District Council
Somerset County Council
South Somerset District Council
Taunton Deane District Council
West Somerset District Council
Kennet District Council
North Wiltshire District Council
Torbay Council
South Hams District Council
Teignbridge District Council
West Devon Borough Council
Torridge District Council
Salisbury District Council
Borough of Poole
West Wiltshire District Council
Wiltshire County Council

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are for the managing authority of the France (Manche)-England Operational Programme to be designated as a body under European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation provisions. [203041]

John Healey: There are no such plans at present.

INTERREG Programme: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects are being considered in *(a)* Castle Point constituency and *(b)* Essex for funding under the (i) INTERREG and (ii) European Social Fund programmes; and if she will make a statement. [203635]

John Healey: The information requested is as follows.

INTERREG IVA

Essex is included as an adjacent area in the France(Channel)-England and Two Seas INTERREG IVA programmes. The Operational Programmes for both programmes were submitted to the European Commission in November 2007 and have not yet been adopted, or approved, by the Commission. No projects have therefore yet been considered for approval.

INTERREG IVB

Essex is included in the North sea and North West Europe INTERREG IVB programmes. Both these programmes have now had a first call for projects resulting in 11 approvals. One of the North West Europe projects—IMCORE—has a Colchester based partner called Coastnet.

The second call for North sea projects has closed. Of the 30 project applications submitted two have Essex based partners. Essex county council for Haven Gateway is a partner in the Dryport project and Southend on Sea borough council is a partner in the Building with Care project. The second call for North West Europe projects closes on 9 May and we do not yet have information on individual partners.

INTERREG IVC

The first call for INTERREG IVC ended on 15 January 2008. There were over 480 applications and the IVC Secretariat is currently assessing them. We expect to receive project and partner details from the Secretariat during summer 2008.

European Social Fund

For the European Social Fund, two project specifications relating specifically to Essex have been appraised and await award of contract. A further 16 tenders for regional contracts that are likely to include Essex and Castle Point are under negotiation.

INTERREG Programme: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding the Government will be providing in co-payments towards the EU INTERREG *(a)* IVA, *(b)* IVB and *(c)* IVC programmes over the next three years. [203043]

John Healey: The Government will not be providing match funding for projects in the new programmes. But we will be contributing towards their technical assistance budgets which are used for funding the programme secretariats. These secretariats deal with the day to day management of the programmes including arranging project applications, project monitoring and providing general advice. The UK contribution for April 2008 to March 2010 will be:

	Euro
Interreg IVA	1,593,000
Interreg IVB (including INTERACT)	2,087,782
Interreg IVC	337,053
Total	4,017,835

Local Authorities: Cost Effectiveness

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what procurement advice her Department has given to best value authorities on the application of the Best Value Code of Practice in Work Force Matters; [203354]

(2) how many times the alternative dispute resolution procedure has been invoked for best value authority contracts; [203353]

(3) what steps her Department has taken to assess the effect the Best Value Code of Practice in Work Force Matters in best value authority contracts; [203352]

(4) what steps her Department has taken to monitor *(a)* the application of and *(b)* compliance with the Best Value Code of Practice in Work Force Matters in best value authority contracts. [203351]

John Healey: The code of practice on work force matters in local authority service contracts (ODPM, 2003) is guidance based on the Secretary of State's view that a 'two-tier work force' does not achieve 'best value'. Local authorities should have regard to the code when considering individual contracts.

The alternative dispute resolution (ADR) procedure was developed by the TUC, CBI, the LGA—Local Government Association—and the Employers' Association for Local Government. Use of the ADR is not monitored centrally.

Communities and Local Government is carrying out a programme of ongoing research that will evaluate the impact of the local government procurement agenda as a whole. A specific strand has been to attempt to isolate the impact of the code of practice. Initial results were published in the 'Evaluation of the Local Government Procurement Agenda—Baseline Survey Report' (ODPM, August 2005). Just over two-thirds of authorities had included work force matters as a standard issue in contracts for services.

Currently, local authorities are required to certify in their best value performance plans (BVPPs) that individual contracts comply with best value requirements, including the work force requirements in the two-tier code. As part of the package of de-regulatory measures, announced in the Local Government White Paper 2006, the Department signalled the intention to remove the requirement for authorities to prepare BVPPs; provisions to do so were secured in the 'Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007'. We will be consulting on proposed arrangements for monitoring compliance with the code in future.

Local Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many parish and town councils there are in England; and what estimate her Department has made of the number which levy a precept on council tax bills in their area. [203063]

John Healey: There are approximately 8,900 parish and town councils in England. Details of the number of parish and town councils which levy a precept on council tax bills in their area is not recorded centrally.

Local Government Finance: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the ratio between central Government funding and council tax revenue received by the London borough of Enfield was in each of the last 10 years. [202862]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2181W.

Local Government Finance Funding Changes Independent Inquiry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations of the Lyons Inquiry into local government finance the Government *(a)* has implemented and *(b)* plans to implement. [203055]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 631W.

Local Government: Electronic Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what citizen identification types are included in the Valuebill XML Schema. [203059]

John Healey: None.

Local Government: Pensions

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which private contractors have been given admitted body status to the local government pension scheme; [203355]

(2) how many third sector organisations have been given admitted body status to the local government pension scheme. [203319]

John Healey: The information is not held centrally in the form requested.

The regulations governing the scheme in England and Wales require administering authorities to inform the Secretary of State of all admission agreements which they make. A list of admission bodies which have been notified to the Secretary of State has been deposited in the Library of the House. These lists do not specifically distinguish between contractors, third sector and other bodies.

Mobile Homes: Multiple Occupation

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of park homes which are used as houses of multiple occupation. [204009]

Mr. Iain Wright: A park home cannot be a 'house in multiple occupation' because it is not a building for the purpose of applying one or more of the tests in section 254 of the Housing Act 2004.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the equivalent percentage rise in average business rate bills will be in a local authority area which levies the maximum supplementary business rate. [203042]

John Healey: It is not possible to calculate the equivalent percentage increase in average business rate bills in a local authority area which levies the maximum business rate supplement, as it will depend on a number of factors, some of which can not be predicted. These include the level of the non-domestic rating multipliers before and at the time the supplement is levied and whether the property is in receipt of any rate relief. In addition, as announced in "Business rate supplements: a White Paper", all properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less will not have to pay the supplement, thus excluding the vast majority of business properties in England. Those authorities levying supplements will also be able to decide whether there should be an offset for ratepayers contributing to BIDs.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions there are on how revenue from supplementary business rates can be spent by local authorities. [203044]

John Healey: 'Business rate supplements: a White Paper', published in October 2007, made clear that the power to raise supplements is not intended to provide general purpose revenues. The revenue from business rate supplements will only be available for initiatives that will promote the economic development of an area and which otherwise would not have taken place.

Official Hospitality: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the visit by the Chinese Ambassador and the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull to Mr. Chu's China Palace in Kingston upon Hull in April 2004 according to records created during the existence of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [204493]

Mr. Dhanda: All expenditure on official entertainment in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was made in accordance with the guidance set out in the "Ministerial Code" and with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles set out in "Government Accounting".

Ordnance Survey

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has *(a)* received representations and *(b)* commissioned advice on whether separating raw data from value-added products is consistent with Ordnance Survey's new public task definition. [203439]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since Ministers approved the revised Ordnance Survey Public Task in July 2007 representations have been made specifically on the separation of raw data from value added products. Ordnance Survey continues in discussions with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Office for Public Sector Information in response to recommendations raised by OFT in the report on its study of the Commercial Reuse of Public Information.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the effects of applications of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Directive on Ordnance Survey's new public task definition. [203465]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since Ministers approved the revised Ordnance Survey Public Task in July 2007, representations have been received from one trade association representing a number of private sector commercial organisations, who commercially exploit public sector information. These representations included an unsubstantiated claim that the revised Public Task has implications for the applicability of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Directive.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Infrastructure Planning Commission will consider planning applications for *(a)* incinerators, *(b)* airports, *(c)* motorways, *(d)* housing developments and *(e)* sewage plants. [203064]

John Healey: Under the proposals set out in the Planning Bill, the Infrastructure Planning Commission would consider applications for development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects, which could include motorway, airport, sewage treatment plant, and waste incinerator projects, where they met the specified thresholds. It would not deal with housing developments.

Planning Permission: Prosecutions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many successful prosecutions for breaches of the Building Control Regulations there have been since 2000. [203706]

Mr. Iain Wright: Building control bodies initially try to deal with enforcement in an informal manner by seeking to resolve the issues so as to reach a satisfactory conclusion without reverting to formal enforcement through the courts.

Information on the number of prosecutions (whether or not successful) is not collected centrally. However, a recent survey of building control bodies, carried out by the Building Control Alliance, indicated that in 2006-07, less than 0.1 per cent. of applications resulted in formal enforcement action.

The survey may be accessed at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/surveybuildingcontrolrpt

Planning Permission: Strip Clubs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals the Planning Inspectorate has considered in relation to lap dancing clubs in the last 36 months. [204487]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspectorate does not capture data to enable identification of planning appeals relating specifically to lap dancing clubs.

Property: Databases

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the public purse of meeting requests for private sector organisations for master address lists in the last 12 months. [203430]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has created no master address list of its own, so has incurred no costs itself. No estimate of costs to the wider public purse has been made.

Property: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1410W, on property: valuation, how many dwellings are recorded on the Valuation Office Agency's computers as being assigned with an OS value significant code. [202994]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1410W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1410W, on property: valuation, how many dwellings are recorded on the Valuation Office Agency's computers as being assigned a FC value significant code;. [202999]

(2) how many dwellings in England are currently recorded by the Valuation Office Agency as having the value significant code of *(a)* TQ and *(b)* UP. [203048]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1410W.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many households in England were on local authority waiting lists for social housing in 2007; [204499]

(2) what the average period of time a household spent on local authority waiting lists before obtaining social housing was in the latest period for which figures are available. [204516]

Mr. Iain Wright: For information on the number of households on local authority waiting lists I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1198-99W.

Information on the average wait for households on local authority waiting lists is not collected centrally.

Travelling People: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1903W, on travelling people: council tax, whether traveller camps which occupy land which they do not own or have permission to occupy, and which do not having planning permission for occupation, are valued for council tax or business rates by the Valuation Office Agency. [203159]

John Healey: A clearly defined pitch for a caravan which is a person's sole or main residence will be liable for council tax whether the basis for the occupation is legal or not.

Valuation Office: Digital Mapping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1397W., on digital mapping, what role the Valuation Office Agency has in the development of Digital National Framework. [202955]

Mr. Dhanda: The Valuation Office Agency no longer plays an active role in the development of the Digital National Framework and are correspondence members only.

Valuation: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local billing authorities in England communicate property amendments to the Valuation Office Agency through *(a)* the Valuebill interface and *(b)* electronic billing authority reports. [203066]

John Healey: None, other than by electronic billing authority reports (eBARs).

Between 1 January and 31 December 2007, 148 local authorities in England submitted eBARs to the Valuation Office Agency.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Valuation Office Agency's targets are for local authority take-up of *(a)* the Valuebill interface and *(b)* electronic billing authority reports. [203067]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency encourages all authorities to use these facilities but the decision whether to do so rests with them.

Waste Management: Audit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account of joint waste authority status will be taken by the Audit Commission in conducting comprehensive area assessments. [203037]

John Healey: Comprehensive area assessment (CAA) will assess the prospects for improving priority outcomes in each area. The effectiveness of joint working between local partners to achieve this improvement will be an important part of this assessment, but CAA will not be prescriptive about the particular arrangements for joint working. An adverse judgment under CAA would result if the inspectorates were not satisfied that outcomes will improve. The existence or otherwise of joint arrangements for a particular service would not automatically result in such a judgment being 'marked down'.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action the Government has taken to reduce crime related to drunkenness. [186847]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Government take the issue of crime and antisocial behaviour committed by individuals when drunk very seriously. The Government have taken a number of actions in order to combat this, including introducing the Tackling Violent Crime Programme (TVCP) which was launched in November 2004. Additionally, local areas are now required to address alcohol-related issues within their Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) strategies. The Government have produced guidance to assist local areas in producing their strategies, and the Government offices for the regions are coordinating this requirement within their specific region. The Government have also recently published 'A practical guide for dealing with alcohol related problems' which is aimed at local alcohol practitioners and gives advice about the tools and powers available to tackle alcohol related crime.

The Government are working to improve the way alcohol related offenders are dealt with in custody and in the community. The National Offender Management Service is taking this work forward which includes; the publication of an alcohol pack for offenders under probation supervision, disseminating across the National Probation Service learning points from alcohol best practice projects, as well as work to develop two alcohol treatment programmes for prisons.

Additionally, the Government have funded four alcohol arrest referral pilots. These schemes aim to offer custody based interventions from a trained worker in order to reduce re-offending. These pilots will be rolled out to 10 new areas, which will ensure that the under 18's will also benefit from these interventions.

Cannabis

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of cannabis users were classed as regular users *(a)* in each year since 1996 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [201691]

Mr. Coaker: The British crime survey (BCS) only collects information about frequent drug use among young people aged 16 to 24 years. Questions on frequency of use in the last year were first asked in the 2002-03 BCS.

Table 1 provides trend data between the 2002-03 and 2006-07 BCS for the proportion of cannabis users aged 16 to 24 years who reported to using cannabis frequently (more than once a month) in the previous year. The latest figures show that there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of 16 to 24-year-old cannabis users who report being a frequent user between the 2002-03 and 2006-07 BCS (from 46.1 per cent. to 37.0 per cent.).

Table 1: Frequent use in the last year among 16 to 24-year-old cannabis users, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Used more than once a month	Percentage Unweighted base
2002-03	46.1	743
2003-04	46.9	1,267
2004-05	41.1	1,348
2005-06	41.2	1,164
2006-07	37.0	1,069

Source:
British crime survey (BCS).

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested by officers of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre since establishment have been *(a)* charged, *(b)* tried and *(c)* found guilty; and what the (i) sentence and (ii) earliest date for parole was in each case. [204071]

Mr. Coaker: The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) is the lead agency for the co-ordination of UK policing response to the threat of child sexual exploitation, particularly within the online or mobile environments. CEOP works to support police, child protection and education agencies locally and internationally to better protect children and young people from this threat.

Since its launch in April 2006, 207 children have been safeguarded from sexual abuse either directly or indirectly as the result of CEOP activity.

As of 31 March 2008, in 176 cases involving the arrests of individuals, where CEOP provided operational support to UK police forces and where feedback was received from those police forces, 60 individuals where charged with various offences, 10 were cautioned, 63 cases are ongoing, and in 43, no further action was taken.

Responsibility for and information pertaining to the investigation, prosecution, trial and post-conviction management of any individual dealt with as a result of information, intelligence or operational support provided by CEOP lies with the relevant police force or criminal justice agency concerned.

Cocaine

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of cocaine powder users were classed as regular users *(a)* in each year since 1996 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [201692]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey (BCS) only collects information about frequent drug use among young people aged 16 to 24 years. Questions on frequency of use in the last year were first asked in the 2002-03 BCS.

The following table provides trend data between the 2002-03 and 2006-07 BCS for the proportion of cocaine powder users aged 16 to 24 years who reported to using cocaine frequently (more than once a month) in the previous year. The latest figures show that although there was an increase in the proportion of 16 to 24-year-old cocaine powder users who report being a frequent user between the 2002-03 and 2006-07 BCS (from 18.9 to 25.6) this was not statistically significant as these estimates are based on small samples and subject to large margins of error. Larger differences are required to detect statistically significant changes over time.

Frequent use in the last year among 16 to 24-year-old cocaine powder users, 2002-03 to 2006-07 BCS

Percentage

	More than once a month	*Unweighted base*
2002-03	18.9	123
2003-04	17.2	253
2004-05	14.2	275
2005-06	22.3	321
2006-07	25.6	302

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many 16 to 24-year-olds were reported to have taken any form of cocaine in each year since 1996; [201693]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of 16 to 59-year-olds who have used any form of cocaine in each year since 1996. [201694]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information about the numbers and proportions of people who have used drugs ever, in the last year and in the last month.

Tables 1 and 2 provide trends, where available, of the estimated number of 16 to 24-year-olds and 16 to 59-year-olds respectively, who have used any form of cocaine in the last year.

These estimates are based on small samples and subject to large margins of error, as indicated in the tables.

Trends in the proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds and 16 to 59 year olds who have used any form of cocaine are also included and show an increase in use among both age groups between the 1996 and 2006-07 BCS.

Table 1 Estimates of numbers and prevalence of 16 to 24-year-olds who have used any form of cocaine in the last year, 1996 to 2006-07 BCS

	Best estimate	*Lower estimate*	*Higher estimate*	*% of 16 to 24 year olds*	*Statistically significant change 1996*	*Unweighted base*
1996	82	49	136	1.4	—	1,420
1998	180	125	257	3.2	•	1,246
2000	304	235	391	5.4	•	1,468
2001-02	289	247	339	5.1	•	3,995
2002-03	300	257	350	5.2	•	4,227
2003-04	318	278	364	5.4	•	5,531
2004-05	312	275	355	5.1	•	6,196
2005-06	370	327	417	5.9	•	5,892
2006-07	375	332	423	6.1	•	5,706

Notes:

1. The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval around the 2006-07 sample best estimates. Lower and higher estimates are based on 95 per cent. confidence intervals (calculated using a logit transformation where proportions were less than 0.2 or greater than 0.8).
2. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

Table 1: Estimates of numbers and prevalence of 16 to 59-year-olds who have used any form of cocaine in the last year. 1996 to 2006/07 BCS

Table 2: Estimates of numbers and prevalence of 16 to 59-year-olds who have used any form of cocaine in the last year. 1996 to 2006-07 BCS

	Best estimate	*Lower estimate*	*Higher estimate*	*% of 16 to 24 year olds*	*Statistically significant change 1996*	*Unweighted base*
1996	196	148	259	0.6	-	10,741
1998	382	309	470	1.3	*	9,884
2000	632	547	729	2.0	*	12,771
2001-02	620	551	696	2.0	*	19,973
2002-03	652	588	724	2.1	*	23,357
2003-04	775	705	852	2.5	*	24,197
2004-05	644	585	709	2.0	*	28,206
2005-06	776	712	846	2.4	*	29,631
2006-07	835	767	908	2.6	*	28,975

Notes: 1. The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval around the 2006-07 sample best estimates. Lower and higher estimates are based on 95 per cent. confidence intervals (calculated using a logit transformation where proportions were less than 0.2 or greater than 0.8). 2. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

Reoffenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persistent and prolific offenders have been identified in each police force area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [200479]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the performance management arrangements for the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme provides the number of such offenders identified through partnership arrangements in each police force area. The data are provided in the following table. The data cover the three years from January 2005 up to December 2007, and are the most recent data available. These figures rely on the accuracy and completeness of the data provided locally by prolific and priority offender schemes.

Table 1

Police force area	*1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005*	*1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006*	*1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007*
Avon and Somerset	218	225	228
Bedfordshire	116	118	122
Cambridgeshire	92	107	135
Cheshire	180	185	191
City of London	4	11	15
Cleveland	132	145	143
Cumbria	67	68	69
Derbyshire	355	359	357
Devon and Cornwall	359	334	334
Dorset	52	75	62
Durham	57	58	79
Dyfed Powys	92	81	84
Essex	195	167	194
Gloucestershire	100	104	112
Greater Manchester	737	840	1,004
Gwent	77	81	90
Hampshire	210	258	333
Hertfordshire	228	149	142
Humberside	181	212	234
Kent	306	254	278
Lancashire	413	361	427
Leicestershire	338	341	342
Lincolnshire	125	111	195
Merseyside	412	417	336
Metropolitan police	1,090	1,139	1,185
Norfolk	118	93	112
North Wales	136	100	120
North Yorkshire	55	89	122
Northamptonshire	183	259	265

Table 1

Police force area	*1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005*	*1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006*	*1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007*
Northumbria	224	219	241
Nottinghamshire	501	497	634
South Wales	186	195	237
South Yorkshire	240	237	265
Staffordshire	157	261	239
Suffolk	160	170	145
Surrey	138	181	149
Sussex	311	309	350
Thames Valley	327	334	330
Warwickshire	71	78	107
West Mercia	154	117	117
West Midlands	708	758	788
West Yorkshire	283	242	243
Wiltshire	80	78	48

Shares: Sales Methods

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been provided to police forces in England and Wales on dealing with fraud associated with boiler room operations. [204154]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have not issued specific guidance to police forces on dealing with boiler room fraud but aim to deliver a multi-agency response to major frauds including boiler-room frauds. Law enforcement agencies, Government Departments and regulators have already worked together on several initiatives and the City of London Police has established Operation Archway, a national intelligence reporting system for boiler room fraud.

Action against boiler rooms will be strengthened further by the creation of the National Fraud Strategic Authority, which will co-ordinate national counter-fraud efforts. In parallel, the creation of a National Fraud Reporting Centre will boost the ability of law enforcement agencies to take intelligence-led action against complex fraud networks, such as those responsible for boiler rooms.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for offences relating to fraud by boiler room operations in 2007. [204157]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. robbery, burglary, fraud and forgery etc. From data reported centrally we are not able to identify specific offences of fraud from within the main 'fraud and forgery' offence group.

Similarly, the data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the court proceedings database does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case. As a result offences of fraud by boiler room operations cannot be separately identified from other offences under section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006.

Wildlife: Crime

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the effectiveness of enforcement by police forces of measures against wildlife crime and illegal hunting. [201500]

Mr. Coaker: We have no plans at present to review the effectiveness of enforcement by police forces of measures against wildlife crime and illegal hunting.

It is the role of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to review the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces. As such it would be for the Chief Inspector to decide on such a review.

The Home Office has recently announced that it will contribute £150,000 per year for three years to fund the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU). Government officials will be working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the NWCU to monitor the outcomes achieved through this funding.

The Home Office continues to meet with interested stakeholders and to work closely with the police, through the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to identify what more can be done to ensure the Hunting Act is effectively and appropriately enforced and to improve detection of illegal hunting.

The Association of Chief Police Officers have conducted a survey of local police forces' response to enforcement of the Hunting Act which will inform best-practice guidance. The Government are also working with ACPO on ways to raise awareness of issues surrounding enforcement of the Hunting Act across the police service, and to communicate the importance of visible enforcement to community policing in rural areas and to the maintenance of public order.

We are also working closely with the Attorney-General about what more can be done to secure prosecutions where evidence has been presented of Hunting Act offences being committed. The Attorney-General in turn has agreed to raise the issue of the burden of proof in hunting cases with the Director of Public Prosecutions, and to engage with local Crown Prosecution Service leads to better understand and then communicate, the evidence needed to bring forward successful prosecutions.

26 individuals have now been convicted of offences under the Hunting Act 2004 which does show that the legislation is enforceable when the evidence presents itself.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she will answer Question 179094 on the national DNA database tabled on 9 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Cardiff Central; and if she will make a statement. [192952]

Meg Hillier: The question was answered on 7 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 994-96W.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to reply to Question 191801, tabled on 29 February 2008, on test sales for video works. [198874]

Mr. Coaker: I replied to the hon. Member on 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 507W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

1 Carlton Gardens

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 99W, on 1 Carlton Gardens, (1) what charges were made to the right hon. Member for Derby, South in respect of her occupation of the property following cessation of Ministerial office; [199519]

(2) what level of payment was made by the right hon. Member for Derby, South while occupying the property *(a)* as a Minister and *(b)* when not holding Ministerial office. [199520]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Meg Munn) gave to him on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 99W. The amount of tax paid is personal information. My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) personally paid in full the council tax for the period of her occupation.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's paper referring to critical military gaps in the NATO mission in Afghanistan, as referred to in *The Daily Telegraph* of 29 April 2008. [203418]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office believes that the paper to which James Kirkup referred in *The Daily Telegraph* article of 29 April was a draft internal working document. It was not shared with international partners as the article suggested. Given the nature of the document, it would not be appropriate to place it in the Library of the House.

Afghanistan: United Nations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes to the mandate of the special representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan are envisaged following the adoption by the Security Council of a new resolution on the UN mission in Afghanistan; and when this resolution is expected to be adopted. [202894]

Dr. Howells: The mandate of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Afghanistan, as head of the UN Assistance Mission, is set out in the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. The most recent was UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1806 (2008). This was adopted on 20 March and draws on the previous mandates. UNSCR 1806 can be found at:

http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/279/31/PDF/N0827931.pdf?OpenElement.

China: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have had with the Government of China since 2006 about the Population and Birth-planning Law 2002; and if he will make a statement. [201934]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We regularly raise our concerns with the Chinese Government about the implementation of China's population and family planning law. The Chinese Government acknowledges that there have been problems with administration of the policy, but insists this would be down to individuals rather than malign intent. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials discussed the One Child Policy during the recent round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in Beijing in January. We do not dispute China's right or need to implement family planning policies, but we do believe they should be based on the principles of consent and not coercion. We will continue to encourage the Chinese to meet international human rights standards at every appropriate opportunity, both bilaterally and through the EU.

A more detailed survey of all the exchanges between UK Ministers and officials with Chinese authorities from 2006 would require a search of files held centrally and at all posts in China, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have had with the Government of China since 2006 about the implementation in Tibet of the Population and Birth-planning Law 2002; and if he will make a statement. [201935]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have not discussed the implementation of China's population and family planning law with the Chinese Government with specific reference to Tibet. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials did however discuss the One Child Policy during the recent round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue

in Beijing in January. The main theme of the dialogue was ethnic minority rights and included a field trip to Tibet. We do not dispute China's right or need to implement family planning policies but we do believe they should be based on the principles of consent and not coercion. We will continue to encourage the Chinese to meet international human rights standards at every appropriate opportunity, both bilaterally and through the EU.

A more detailed survey of all the exchanges between UK Ministers and officials with Chinese authorities from 2006 would require a search of files held centrally and at all posts in China, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Commonwealth Scholarships: Finance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which other Government Departments he consulted prior to his written ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-24WS, on FCO scholarships and fellowships, announcing that his Department would phase out its funding for Commonwealth Scholarships from 2009. [203305]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The changes to Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) scholarship schemes are rooted in our 2006 review of the Chevening scholarship programme, on which the FCO consulted widely. My right hon. Friend did not consult other Government Departments before making his statement.

Cuba: USA

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Ministers in his Department have met Caleb McCarry since his appointment as Cuba Transition Co-ordinator for the Bush Administration. [203957]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have not met Caleb McCarry since his appointment as Cuba Transition Co-ordinator in 2005.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken on food hygiene standards in the canteen at Admiralty Building, Whitehall, following the latest inspection by Westminster City Council; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest Westminster City Council food hygiene inspection report relating to the canteen (case 05/47821/FOOD); and if he will make a statement. [202839]

Dr. Howells: Westminster city council last inspected the Old Admiralty Building's 'The Mall Café' on 31 May 2006. Five issues were highlighted in the inspection and the necessary follow up action has been taken. A copy of the inspection report has been placed in the Library of the House.

EU Budget

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much and what proportion of funding the UK contributed to the EU Budget in each of the last three years. [203893]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

Details of member states contributions to the EC budget over the period 2004 to 2006, the last three years for which outturn data are currently available, can be found in annex 4 (pages 59-61) of the European Commission's "EU budget 2006 Financial Report" which was published in September 2007. This report can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/publications/fin_reports_en.htm

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter, dated 26 March 2008, transferred from the Prime Minister, about meeting the Dalai Lama. [203392]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, replied to the hon. Member on 1 May.

Morocco: Political Prisoners

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the hunger strike by 60 Sahrawi political prisoners in Moroccan jails; and if he will make a statement. [203298]

Dr. Howells: The Government are aware of a number of Sahrawi prisoners in Moroccan jails currently on hunger strike. I understand they are calling for improvements in prison conditions and to be treated as political prisoners.

The UK has worked hard to help Morocco improve prison conditions in recent years. In 2005-07, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office funded a prison management project aimed at raising awareness of prisoners' rights and improving working practices.

As part of this, our embassy in Rabat organised regional prison conferences in May 2006 and April 2007, aimed at tackling radicalisation, preventing recruitment, promoting rehabilitation and promoting the rule of law and human rights in Islamic countries' prisons.

We continue to engage with the Moroccan Government at various levels to ensure the rule of law is upheld and the rights of prisoners are respected.

Overseas Students: Scholarships

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the differences in performance of the Chevening, Commonwealth and Marshall scholarship programmes. [203306]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The purpose of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) scholarship schemes is to build personal relationships with international leaders of the future. Following a recent review of all scholarship funding, in accordance with the FCO's global strategy and priorities, it was concluded that the Chevening and Marshall scholarship schemes achieved this purpose more effectively than the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

Pakistan: Terrorism

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals have been detained in Pakistan on suspicion of terrorist offences since 2000. [203571]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* We are aware of six cases of British or dual British/Pakistani nationals having been detained on suspicion of terrorist offences in Pakistan since 2000.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates consular officials have requested access to Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison since his abduction from Zimbabwe to Equatorial Guinea; how many such requests have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused; what reasons have been given for such refusals; and what representations have been made to the government of Equatorial Guinea in consequence. [196717]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Since Simon Mann's detention in Equatorial Guinea we have sought consular access twice. Access was given on the first occasion, but refused on the second. Despite strong representations on our part the Equatorial Guinea authorities told us that access could not be given because of an ongoing police investigation. We have expressed our concern to the Equatorial Guinea authorities and are urgently seeking another consular visit.

Somaliland: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on claims of independence by Somaliland. [201850]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK does not recognise Somaliland as an independent state. The Government's policy on Somaliland's claims of independence is that the Somaliland authorities should negotiate with the Transitional Federal government to determine their future relationship.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on discussions between the Pentagon and the US State Department on the recognition of Somaliland as an independent state. [202892]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no reports of discussions between the Pentagon and the US State Department on the recognition of Somaliland as an independent state.

Somaliland: Shipping

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the likely effect on the safety of shipping using the Gulf of Aden and the port of Berbera were Somaliland to be recognised as an independent state. [201849]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No assessment has been made of the effect of Somaliland being recognised as independent on the safety of shipping using the Gulf of Aden and port of Berbera.

The incidents of piracy and risks to shipping in the region are a result of insecurity in parts of Somalia and limited maritime security capacity provided by the governing authorities. Addressing these issues will have the greatest impact on improving the safety of shipping.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many troops each country has committed to the UNAMID force. [202428]

Dr. Howells: The UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), with the African Union (AU), is tasked with generating troops for the UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The DPKO has not yet confirmed the number of troops from each country that will deploy to UNAMID.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what countries have made provisional commitments to supply helicopters to UNAMID. [202429]

Dr. Howells: Ethiopia is contributing four light tactical helicopters to the UN-African Union peacekeeping Mission in Darfur. We understand that other countries have previously offered helicopters which lacked suitable capabilities for the mission, and there are no current provisional commitments. We continue to work closely with the UN to explore all possible options for helicopter provision.

Zimbabwe: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the effects of recent political events in Zimbabwe on refugee flows from the country; and if he will make a statement. [201998]

David Miliband: We are not aware of further widespread emigration since the recent elections in Zimbabwe. However, post-election violence has created hundreds of internally displaced persons, mainly in

rural areas, with individuals seeking refuge with family in the cities or church groups. The UK is already providing support to the people of Zimbabwe, £49 million in 2007, targeting those most in need as a result of the economic mismanagement of the country.

Zimbabwe: China

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Chinese authorities on arms sales to Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [201997]

David Miliband: We have lobbied the Chinese Government in Beijing not to supply arms to Zimbabwe on four occasions since a Chinese ship attempted to unload in Durban. The EU already has in place a ban on the sales of arms to Zimbabwe. We support a moratorium on arms sales until there is a return to democracy and good governance. We raised this with the support of other states in the UN Security Council.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether an estimate has been made of the numbers killed and injured in Zimbabwe as a result of politically-motivated violence since the 29 March election; and if he will make a statement. [201996]

David Miliband: Since election day, at least 500 people have been injured, 120 hospitalised and two killed as a consequence of state-sponsored violence. Many have suffered torture. In addition, at least 7,000 people have been internally displaced by the violence.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Actis

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the date was of the Actis business plan on which KPMG based its valuation update of 31 March 2004. [203714]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: KPMG based its valuation update on the Actis business plan of 19 March 2004.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the Actis business plan of 19 March 2004, including the detailed breakdown of Actis' financial forecasts. [203715]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The CDC/Actis Umbrella agreement has already been placed in the Library of the House of Commons. This document includes the Actis business plan of 1 April 2004, which is not materially different from that of the 19 March 2004. It includes the detailed breakdown of Actis' financial forecasts.

Food: Prices

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on rising food prices internationally, with particular reference to staples such as rice; and if he will make a statement. [202550]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Last month, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched an appeal for an additional $500 million to meet the increased costs of this year's programmes—the cost of rice has now risen to over $1,000 a tonne.

The UK Government are very concerned about the effect on developing countries, where the poorest can spend as much as 90 per cent. of their income on food. There are already 850 million people who don't get enough to eat, and as prices rise these numbers will increase. That is why the Government announced a £455 million aid package to provide assistance to those hardest hit and has taken the lead by calling for the international community to urgently develop a co-ordinated strategy to tackle this critical problem.

Kosovo: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has allocated to Kosovo for each of the next three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [200835]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently plans to spend £5 million in Kosovo in financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10, and £4 million in 2010-11. Together with funding from the Conflict Prevention Pool (this is managed jointly by DFID, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office), the UK Government are currently expecting to spend £23 million bilateral aid in total in Kosovo over the next three years.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* allowances, *(b)* travel costs and *(c)* accommodation costs have been provided to the staff seconded from his Department to support the work of (i) James Wolfensohn and (ii) Tony Blair in their roles as Quartet Representatives; and if he will make a statement. [200834]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Quartet Representative's staff, including Department for International Development (DFID) secondees, draw upon the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) fund for business related allowance and travel costs. It is a matter for UNDP to determine whether to publish details of costs.

DFID seconded one staff member to the Wolfensohn team and one to the Blair team. DFID has paid £75,080 directly to its secondees for accommodation, travel and expenses. We cannot provide greater detail of this expenditure for matters of personal privacy. All costs are checked to ensure they were essential to fulfilling the individual's duties as a secondee to the Office of the Quartet Special Representative.

Rice: Prices

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the rising cost of rice on the poorest developing countries. [202574]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government are very concerned about the effect of rising food prices, including rice, on developing countries, where the poorest can spend as much as 90 per cent. of their income on food. Rice prices are now over $1,000 a tonne, in part due to additional demand as some governments seek to replenish strategic food reserves.

There are already 850 million people who don't get enough to eat, and as prices rise these numbers will increase. That is why the UK Government have announced a £455 million aid package to provide assistance to those hardest hit and taken the lead by calling for the international community to urgently develop a co-ordinated strategy to tackle this critical problem.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on aid for Sri Lanka in each year since 1997; and to what Sri Lankan *(a)* governmental body, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(b)* inter-governmental organisations this funding was given. [203205]

Mr. Malik: Between 1997-2007, the Department for International Development's (DFID) total bilateral programme aid to Sri Lanka was £71.4 million. This includes project aid, technical assistance, humanitarian aid, debt relief and Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) funds. DFID's bilateral programme to Sri Lanka ended in March 2007. DFID now works with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to provide peace building support to Sri Lanka by pooling funds through the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP). DFID's 2007-08 CPP contributions stand at £1.5 million. The breakdown of spend per year 1997-2007 is provided in the following table.

DFID bilateral spend in Sri Lanka between 1997 and 2007

	£ million
	DFID spend on Sri Lanka
1997-98	6.6
1998-99	7.9
1999-2000	7.8
2000-01	7.3
2001-02	4.7
2002-03	5.7
2003-04	8.1
2004-05	6.6
2005-06	10.8
2006-07	5.9
End of DFID bilateral programme	
Total	71.4

Governmental Departments

DFID does not provide (and has not provided) Direct Budget Support to the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). Support to the Government was principally through debt relief during 1998-2000 and again in 2005-07. In spring 2007 the GoSL was unable to meet the criteria required for debt relief due to its violation of human rights and debt relief was suspended. DFID has provided some technical assistance to the Government through, for example, the GoSL/UNICEF Joint Strategy for Internally Displaced Peoples, the Government's education programme via the World Bank Education Trust Fund, and provision of training for the Sri Lankan police force.

Between 1997 and 2007, DFID also supported the following organisations:

Non-governmental organisations

Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children Fund UK, Oxfam, Islamic Relief, Centre for Poverty Analysis, ZOA Refugee Care, Mercy Corps, RedR, International Health Partners, Halo Trust, Christian Aid.

Inter-governmental organisations/multilaterals

UNICEF, World Bank, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), Commonwealth Scholarship Fellow Plan, Asian Development Bank (ADB).

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Shares: Sales Methods

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) which agencies of the Government are taking steps to counter the risk of illegal share sale boiler room operations; what mechanisms are in place to ensure inter-agency liaison and information-sharing; and if he will make a statement; [203625]

(2) what steps the Government plans to take against illegal share sale boiler room operations; [203626]

(3) what recent representations he has received on illegal share sale boiler room operations; [203627]

(4) what estimate he has made of losses to private individuals from illegal share sale boiler room operations; [203629]

(5) whether he plans to issue guidance on countering illegal share sale boiler room operations; [203630]

(6) what steps he has taken to raise public awareness of the activities of illegal share sale boiler room operations. [203631]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The overall position is that the Government are delivering a multi-agency response to the threat posed by so-called boiler room frauds. These typically involve the use of high-pressure sales techniques by groups operating abroad to sell worthless or non-existent investments.

There has been a coordinated approach as law enforcement agencies, Government Departments and regulators have worked together on several initiatives. These have included:

1. Strengthening prevention through greater education and advice to the public, with recent campaigns delivered by the

Financial Services Authority (FSA), the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the city of London police;

2. A major enforcement-led initiative to target the key organisers of boiler room networks. This involved significant joint working between UK enforcement agencies and partners overseas;

3. Creating a more hostile environment for boiler room operations based in other EU member states by reinforcing the European framework for regulating the provision of investment advice.

In the future, action against boiler rooms will be strengthened further by the creation of the National Fraud Strategic Authority, which will have an explicit mandate to lead and coordinate national counter-fraud efforts, to ensure maximum impact against serious threats of fraud.

In parallel, the creation of a national fraud reporting centre will boost the ability of law enforcement agencies to take intelligence-led action against complex fraud networks, such as those responsible for boiler rooms.

The number of representations received from time to time by the various departments and agencies involved is low. These occasional representations are typically on behalf of individual constituents who have fallen victim to boiler room frauds.

No estimate of the losses incurred by consumers is available. However, a number of other reports seek to describe and quantify the problem. For example, a report published by the Office of Fair Trading in December 2006 on 'Research on impact of mass marketed scams' discussed the nature and size of the problem of high-risk investment scams. That category covered, but was not confined to, what is usually understood by "boiler room" frauds. The FSA published the results of a study of boiler room victims who had contacted their consumer centre in June 2006. Any estimate of the extent or cost of the problem is affected by the reluctance of some people to report that they have been the victim of a boiler room fraud.

Prevention is an important part of any strategy to reduce the impact of boiler room frauds. That requires effective law enforcement action, and action to raise consumer awareness of the existence and nature of these frauds. Accordingly a number of agencies issue guidance and raise awareness about boiler room frauds. These include the FSA, the Home Office, the Metropolitan and city of London police forces, and the OFT. The FSA for example has recently engaged with radio features and news programmes, television, regional and local radio, and various written media. In addition following FSA agreement with registrars existing shareholders will receive warnings about the threat of boiler rooms.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect of immigration on the availability of training opportunities and apprenticeships to British workers. [199853]

Bill Rammell: The Government are committed to up-skilling British workers to provide them with the skills required in a competitive labour market. Migrant workers from outside the European Union, not ordinarily resident in the UK for at least three years, are not eligible to Government funded training places such as apprenticeships. Apprenticeship starts have increased from 65,000 in 1996/97 to 180,000 in 2006/07. They are projected to grow to almost 210,000 by 2010/11. By 2013, we will ensure that an apprenticeship is available to all qualified young people. Train to Gain has engaged over 77,000 employers with more then 363,000 workers starting learning programmes. We have ambitious plans to expand Train to Gain with increased funding from around £520 million this year to over £1 billion in 2010.

Civil Service Agencies

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list each of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies, setting out in each case their (i) function, (ii) latest estimated annual running costs and (iii) number of staff; and if he will make a statement. [203156]

Mr. Lammy: The non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies of my Department are listed in the following table. This provides the details sought in your question.

Schedule of the non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies—April 2008

	Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)	*Student Loans Company (SLC)*	*Office for Fair Access (OFFA)*	*Learning and Skills Council (LSC)*	*Commission for Employment and Skills (CES)*
Type of body	NDPB	NDPB	NDPB	NDPB	Executive NDPB and company limited by guarantee
Approximate FTEs (full-time equivalents)	240	1,280	3	[1] 3,630	85
Budget (£ million)					
2008-09	7,466.7	82.3	0.5	11,589	[2]69.7
2009-10	7,706.3	74.7	0.49	12,017	[2]68.1
2010-11	8,061.0	77.1	0.48	12,599	[2]67.9
Key functions	Distribute public money to HEIs	To provide financial services to HEIs and students throughout the UK	To promote and safeguard fair access to HE for under-represented groups	Funding and commissioning post-16 learning (up to but not including HE) in England	Assess progress towards 2020 Leitch objective

Schedule of the non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies—April 2008

	Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)	*Student Loans Company (SLC)*	*Office for Fair Access (OFFA)*	*Learning and Skills Council (LSC)*	*Commission for Employment and Skills (CES)*
	Promote high quality education and research	To administer the collection of repayments			Work effectively across the four UK nations to support the world class skills agenda
	Ensure accountability and promote good practice				Advise Ministers and monitor the contribution of the employment and skills system
					Advise on the integration of employment and skills related services
					Manage the performance of the Sector Skills Councils

[1] Establishment figure. [2] DIUS funding.

	New FE sector-owned improvement body	*National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML)*	*UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO)*	*Research Councils (RCs)*	*Technology Strategy Board (TSB)*
Type of body	tbc	Executive agency	Executive agency and trading fund	NDPB	NDPB
Approximate FTEs (full-time equivalents)	120	51	959	[2]9,909	75
Budget (£ million)					
2008-09	[1]140-150 throughout the period	4.3	57.8	3,111.8	180
2009-10	[1]—	5.2	59.9	3,239.1	243
2010-11	[1]—	5.3	60.1	3,395.6	253
Key functions	Strategic commissioning body to support FE organisational development	Responsibility for the UK's Weights and Measures framework	Responsibility for the UK's Intellectual Property framework	The Research Councils aim to deliver a world-class research base and through this create a higher level of economic impact and a better quality of life for people in the UK. The integration of three key outputs is vital to achieving this objective: skilled people, knowledge and innovation	Managing programmes to support technological innovation for DIUS
	To improve standards of teaching and learning for the benefit of learners, employers and the wider community	Provision of statutory and commercial metrology services	Responsibility for the UK engagement on IP issues		

[2]Figure from 2006-07 reports and includes institute/scientific and technical staff.

	Design Council	*National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts(NESTA)*[1]	*National Physical Laboratory*
Type of body	NDPB	NDPB	Government owned contractor operated agency
Approximate FTEs (full-time equivalents)	65	95	575
Budget (£ million)			
2008-09	6.035	38	58
2009-10	6.035	38	59
2010-11	6.035	38	47
Key functions	Strengthen and support the UK economy and society by inspiring and enabling the best use of design	To support and promote talent, innovation and creativity in the fields of science, technology and the arts	NPL is the UK's National Measurement Institute and is a centre of excellence in developing and applying accurate measurement standards, science and technology

	Design Council	National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA)[1]	National Physical Laboratory
			DIUS provides NPL with guaranteed funding to maintain and disseminate current measurement standards and to perform research into new standards, techniques and instrumentation that will support future UK needs and stimulate innovation
			NPL also represents the UK in the international measurement arena

[1]NESTA is funded by an endowment from the National Lottery rather than grant-in-aid.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of questions tabled to his Department for written answer on a named day have been answered on the day named in the current Session. [204208]

Mr. Lammy: Since the beginning of the 2007-08 Session and up to 30 April 2008, the Department has received a total of 1,272 PQs—parliamentary questions—153 named day and 1,119 ordinary written PQs. The manual check of all named day PQs carried out to monitor the timeliness of replies for the months of November 2007 to April 2008 are shown in the following table.

	Total named day PQs received (Number)	Total named day PQs answered on time (Percentage)
November 2007	46	37
December 2007	23	35
January 2008	16	6
February 2008	17	35
March 2008	27	11
April 2008	15	80

Mature Students: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government has taken to increase support available to mature students since 1997. [203734]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* Before 2006, loans were limited to students aged under 55, or under 50 for students not intending to enter employment upon graduating. During the passage of the Higher Education Act, concerns were raised about the upper age limits: the Government set up a working group which recommended that there should be no age limit applied to the fee loan when this was introduced in 2006, and a review of the existing age limits on maintenance loans with the intention of increasing this to match the state pension age for the 2006-07 academic year. Consequently, mature students are generally eligible for the same student support as other students, though maintenance loans are available only to those aged under 60. In 2006-07 the age limit for applying for a student loan was raised to 60 years of age and the additional requirement for the student to enter into an agreement to work after their studies was removed.

Students over 25 years of age ('mature students') are treated as independent, and are assessed on their own income (and the income of their spouse or partner where applicable) and not on the income of their parents. For full-time students, fee loans of up to £3,070 (£3,145 in 2008-09) ensure that no one has to pay their fees upfront students under the age of 60 are eligible for maintenance loans of up to £6,315 (£6,475 in 2008-09)[1]. Means-tested grants of up to £2,765 (£2,835 in 2008-09) are available to new students. From 2008-09, we are increasing the income thresholds for the means tested maintenance grant so many more full-time students, including mature students, will receive grant support. This will mean that one third of all eligible students in England entering higher education in the academic year 2008-09 are expected to be entitled to a full non-repayable grant worth £2,835 and another one third are expected to be entitled to a partial grant.

[1] This is the maximum amount available to students studying in London. Students studying elsewhere can receive up to £4,510 (£4,625 in 2008-09)

They can also access targeted support including the adult dependants grant, parents learning allowance, childcare grant and disabled students allowance. students may also qualify for a bursary from their higher education institution. Students may also apply for support from the access to learning fund, a university-administered fund for students experiencing financial hardship.

Student parents are eligible to receive child tax credit from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. Mature students who do not qualify for undergraduate student support may be eligible for a career development loan which has an element of subsidy from public funds.

Students: Loans

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills who took the decision to link the interest rate on student loans to the retail price index; and if he will make a statement. [202579]

Bill Rammell: Parliament determined the interest rate to be paid on student loans. The principle is that borrowers should repay the same amount, in real terms, as they borrowed. To achieve this, the rate of interest is the retail price index (RPI), although the method for determining the rate of interest varies depending on the type of loan.

Older 'mortgage style' loans are credit agreements under the Consumer Credit Act 1974. The interest rate is determined in accordance with the Education

(Student Loans) Regulations 1998 which prescribe the rate of interest to be equal to the RPI so long as that index is published.

Income contingent repayment loans are 'low interest loans' exempt under section 16(5) (b) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974. Interest is calculated in accordance with the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2007, as amended, and is the lower of the rate which the Secretary of State determines is appropriate to maintain the real value of the loans (RPI), or 1 per cent. above the highest of the base rates published by the banks listed in Regulation 4 of the Consumer Credit (Exempt Agreements) Order 1989. Accordingly, there is potential for the interest rates for the two types of loans to differ but, to date, the RPI rate has consistently applied since 1990 to 'mortgage style' loans and since 1998 to income contingent loans.

Students: Per Capita Costs

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average expenditure from the public purse was per student on *(a)* higher education and *(b)* training and skills in each parliamentary constituency in the North West in each year since 1997. [202731]

Mr. Lammy: Expenditure incurred by the Learning and Skills Council, HEFCE—the Higher Education Funding Council for England—and the Student Loans Company is not collected by my Department at the level of detail requested. We will however, work with HEFCE and the Student Loans Company to try to gain a detailed break down of the higher education expenditure and will write to the hon. Member with further relevant detail.

Funding per FTE and schools learners at age bands 16-18 and 19+ by local authority—period 2003/04 to 2007/08

2007/08

	16-18				*19+*	
	Further Education		*Schools*		*Further Education*	
	FTE numbers [1]	*Funding per FTE* [2]	*SSF learner numbers* [3]	*Funding per SSF learner* [4]	*FTE numbers* [1]	*Funding per FTE* [2]
Cheshire	9,041	4,627	6,174	4,529	4,885	3,139
Warrington	2,790	4,190	1,323	4,764	1,888	2,078
Cumbria	4,598	4,265	4,881	4,719	2,841	3,426
Bolton	2,570	4,276	1607	4,477	1,751	2,868
Bury	5,332	4,408	0	0	1,092	3,494
Manchester	9,768	4,505	999	4,580	8,382	3,393
Oldham	4,470	4,374	874	4,558	1,642	3,224
Rochdale	2,913	4,147	546	4,878	1,333	3,119
Salford	5,116	4,201	80	4,594	2,461	3,106
Stockport	7,534	4,294	0	0	3,024	2,623
Tameside	4,162	4,279	315	4,412	2,007	2,896
Trafford	2,739	4,205	1,884	4,727	2,366	3,192
Wigan	6,187	4,195	501	4,742	1,871	3,590
Halton	2,383	4,431	288	4,750	707	4,523
Knowsley	2,528	4,334	359	4,830	1,837	3,553
Liverpool	3,567	4,042	5240	4,843	4,776	3,440
Sefton	5,769	4,416	2163	4,795	2,473	2,994
St. Helens	3,956	4,309	941	4,739	2,693	2,968
Wirral	4,082	4,082	3766	4,623	2,622	2,757
Blackburn with Darwen	4,210	4,315	305	4,631	1,881	3,327
Blackpool	6,408	4,499	129	4,796	2,035	3,596
Lancashire	15,219	4,368	4,291	4,708	7,113	3,412

2006/07

	16-18				*19+*	
	Further Education		*Schools*		*Further Education*	
	FTE numbers [1]	*Funding per FTE* [2]	*SSF learner numbers* [3]	*Funding per SSF learner* [4]	*FTE numbers* [1]	*Funding per FTE* [2]
Cheshire	8,246	4,520	6,192	4,338	5,500	2,812
Warrington	2,475	4,177	1,345	4,520	1,633	2,965
Cumbria	4,658	4,018	4,800	4,601	3,118	3,207
Bolton	2,392	4,048	1743	4,355	1,786	2,961
Bury	5,129	4,209	0	0	1,162	3,202
Manchester	9,006	4,352	937	4,445	9,374	3,186
Oldham	4,185	4,184	869	4,363	1,619	3,216
Rochdale	2,749	3,914	639	4,708	1,414	2,996
Salford	4,629	4,023	40	4,381	2,421	2,989
Stockport	6,865	4,157	0	0	2,695	2,632
Tameside	4,082	4,128	335	4,293	2,206	2,702
Trafford	2,671	4,107	1,829	4,485	2,535	3,081
Wigan	5,998	4,046	516	4,720	1,879	3,265

2006/07

	16-18 Further Education		16-18 Schools		19+ Further Education	
	FTE numbers [1]	Funding per FTE [2]	SSF learner numbers [3]	Funding per SSF learner [4]	FTE numbers [5]	Funding per FTE [2]
Halton	2,524	4,233	272	4,304	1,007	3,432
Knowsley	2,354	4,194	355	4,376	2,491	2,828
Liverpool	3,334	3,852	4986	4,747	6,012	2,976
Sefton	5,341	4,196	2106	4,646	2,725	2,831
St. Helens	3,886	4,119	923	4,595	3,144	2,729
Wirral	2,913	3,936	3614	4,440	2,725	2,583
Blackburn with Darwen	4,238	4,147	334	4,137	2,065	3,383
Blackpool	5,774	4,358	126	4,707	2,300	3,207
Lancashire	14,693	4,191	4,529	4,572	9,667	3,138

2005/06

	16-18 Further Education		16-18 Schools		19+ Further Education	
	FTE numbers [1]	Funding per FTE [2]	SSF learner numbers [3]	Funding per SSF learner [4]	FTE numbers [5]	Funding per FTE [2]
Cheshire	7,920	4,357	6,194	4,186	6,267	2,747
Warrington	2,355	3,989	1,345	4,209	1,770	2,978
Cumbria	4,508	3,691	4,800	4,465	4,252	2,762
Bolton	2,351	3,813	1743	4,278	2,370	2,486
Bury	4,826	4,012	0	0	1,692	2,471
Manchester	8,382	4,219	946	4,238	11,212	2,962
Oldham	3,935	4,066	875	4,120	1,898	2,946
Rochdale	2,752	3,754	740	3,998	1,682	2,730
Salford	4,356	3,916	0	0	2,633	2,864
Stockport	6,663	4,010	0	0	3,088	2,586
Tameside	3,903	4,006	335	4,174	2,632	2,511
Trafford	2,554	3,831	1,830	4,294	2,940	2,934
Wigan	5,646	3,918	516	4,601	2,320	2,955
Halton	2,471	4,108	272	4,275	1,195	3,282
Knowsley	2,254	4,043	353	4,200	2,483	3,033
Liverpool	3,211	3,729	5063	4,624	7,012	2,813
Sefton	5,045	4,021	2106	4,575	3,061	2,731
St. Helens	3,670	3,995	931	4,518	3,586	2,614
Wirral	2,703	3,912	3627	4,223	3,150	2,542
Blackburn with Darwen	4,198	3,995	334	4,097	2,782	2,667
Blackpool	5,097	4,296	128	4,619	2,783	3,001
Lancashire	14,105	3,966	4,529	4,460	11,469	2,934

2004/05

	16-18 Further Education		16-18 Schools		19+ Further Education	
	FTE numbers [1]	Funding per FTE [2]	SSF learner numbers [3]	Funding per SSF learner [4]	FTE numbers [5]	Funding per FTE [2]
Cheshire	7,510	4,097	6,318	3,999	7,051	2,628
Warrington	2,208	3,787	1,304	3,992	1,920	2,887
Cumbria	4,250	9,539	4,641	4,359	4,782	2,613
Bolton	2,190	3,621	1678	3,990	2,770	2,325
Bury	4,713	3,843	0	0	2,011	2,153
Manchester	7,829	4,105	987	4,048	12,237	2,812
Oldham	3,843	3,917	835	3,856	2,083	2,797
Rochdale	2,641	3,384	691	4,465	2,031	2,428
Salford	3,966	3,643	0	0	2,845	2,798
Stockport	6,873	3,788	0	0	3,609	2,304
Tameside	3,867	3,855	344	3,988	3,112	2,192
Trafford	2,554	3,701	1,766	4,198	3,363	2,660
Wigan	5,719	3,650	520	4,036	2,513	2,863
Halton	2,494	3,852	264	4,107	1,387	2,913
Knowsley	1,989	3,980	379	4,317	2,454	3,041
Liverpool	3,225	3,551	4992	4,364	7,253	2,695

2004/05

	16-18 Further Education		16-18 Schools		19+ Further Education	
	FTE numbers [1]	Funding per FTE [2]	SSF learner numbers [3]	Funding per SSF learner [4]	FTE numbers [1]	Funding per FTE [2]
Sefton	4,952	3,800	2094	4,525	3,400	2,599
St. Helens	3,463	3,864	1013	4,198	3,744	2,538
Wirral	2,579	3,854	3563	4,020	3,339	2,506
Blackburn with Darwen	4,218	3,777	343	4,158	3,252	2,397
Blackpool	4,744	4001	154	4,233	3,375	2,604
Lancashire	13,601	3,809	4,590	4,241	11,640	3,030

2003/04

	16-18 Further Education		16-18 Schools		19+ Further Education	
	FTE numbers [1]	Funding per FTE [2]	SSF learner numbers [3]	Funding per SSF learner [4]	FTE numbers [1]	Funding per FTE [2]
Cheshire	7,393	3,775	6r224	3,704	6,977	2,537
Warrington	2,081	3,653	1,368	3,738	2,022	2,597
Cumbria	4,095	3,428	4,525	4,024	4,808	2,617
Bolton	2,133	3,516	1652	3,666	2,854	2,144
Bury	4,709	3,343	0	0	2,138	2,269
Manchester	7,771	3,564	966	3,968	13,122	2,530
Oldham	3,817	3,513	835	3,670	2,367	2,501
Rochdale	2,417	3,140	666	4,389	2,224	2,178
Salford	3,663	3,476	0	0	3,076	2,473
Stockport	6,954	3,457	0	0	3,675	2,276
Tameside	3,864	3,581	299	3,879	3,156	2,080
Trafford	2,747	3,394	1,097	3,939	3,423	2,544
Wigan	5,767	3,411	538	3,823	2,656	2,593
Halton	2,470	3,042	246	3,986	1,874	2,455
Knowsley	1,933	3,657	351	3,991	2,327	2,899
Liverpool	3,190	3,102	4748	4,137	7,387	2,533
Sefton	4,708	3,532	2180	4,091	4,026	2,337
St. Helens	3,455	3,624	1017	4,029	4,072	2,299
Wirral	2,633	3,473	3506	3,785	3,670	2,212
Blackburn with Darwen	4,261	3,520	275	3,797	3,234	2,301
Blackpool	4,290	3,553	136	3,662	3,614	2,480
Lancashire	13,334	3,521	4,279	3,934	12,746	2,657

[1] A full-time equivalent learner is defined as the total guided learning hours divided by 450 (maximum of one FTE per learner).
[2] The funding allocated per FTE to the colleges and FE providers located in the local authority (excluding additional learning support).
[3] School sixth form learner numbers (these are predominantly full-time learners).
[4] Funding allocated per learner (including pensions funding, but excluding the block LA SEN allocation).
Note:
In FE, additional learning support was not allocated by age band and therefore it is not possible to split between 16-18 and 19+ (this is changing in 2008/09). All above figures are based on the allocations made to the schools, colleges and other providers located in that LA area. The learners recruited may not be resident in the same LA area.

UK Commission for Employment and Skills: Public Appointments

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether Sector Skills Council board members or officers are able to serve on the board of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. [203924]

Mr. Lammy: Sector skills council board members are able to serve on the board of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. Sector skills council board members were also able to serve on the board of the former Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA). Many of the functions of the SSDA transferred to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills from 1 April 2008.

Vocational Training: Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what vocational training and courses are available to provide the skills needed for the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors; and whether there are plans further to establish such courses. [202628]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to developing a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers a high level of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the commissioning and funding of post-16 education and training up to (but not including) higher education. Information on the number and type of courses is an operational matter for the LSC and I have asked Mark

Haysom, the LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Gentleman with further information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 8 May 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked:

What vocational training and course are available to provide the skills needed for the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors; and whether there are plans further to establish such courses.

The LSC holds data on vocational learning in England that is funded through the public purse. Through Colleges of Further Education and other training providers we support business and individuals to acquire the skills that they need to achieve personal and organisation aims.

However, the actual content of qualifications is largely decided by the Sector Skills Councils, who represent employers in different sectors, and Awarding Bodies who develop qualifications to meet market need. There are a range of Sector Skills Councils with responsibility for occupations that require skills in energy efficiency and renewable energy, and as such no one Sector Skills Council is accountable specifically for this area of skill. The SSCs with most interest in renewables and energy efficiency include Construction Skills, Energy and Utility Skills, Built Environment (Summit Skills), property and facilities (Asset Skills), energy production and polymers (Cogent) and a range of manufacturing SSCs. Combined, these sectors account for a significant proportion of funded provision in England.

The SSCs are already supporting changes to provision, and courses are already being updated in line with the newest developments for example the addition of condensing boilers into standard heating and plumbing provision. Within the Energy and Utility Skills Sector Skills Council footprint there are 342 learning aims available to the sector, which represent 287 different qualifications. Within 2006/2007 there were a total of 11,781 individuals who enrolled on these qualifications which shows an increase of 17% on the previous year. In addition to these qualifications there are four apprenticeship frameworks specifically developed for the sector. The SSC will work with Awarding Bodies to ensure that the latest skills are taught within these programmes.

The courses available in the future will be largely developed in response to the requirements set out by Sector Skills Councils. Each SSC is currently producing a Sector Qualification Strategy (SQS) covering all skills and qualifications required by their sector, and this must be fully implemented by 2010 at the latest, supported by appropriate National Occupational Standards and robust Labour Market Intelligence. The SQS will set out the need for accredited qualifications and other learning provision in each sector, as part of the SQS, each SSC will produce an action plan with more detail about qualifications which they view as no longer fit for purpose or supported by employers (and which therefore should be removed) and those qualifications which need to be reformed or where new qualifications need to be developed. This process will provide the mechanism for updating skills in line with new technology.

In England, from August 2009 the LSC will align public funding with those qualifications highlighted in SQS and Action Plans which LSC identify as a priority for public funding (mediated by LSC and government targets and priorities). Where the LSC deems a qualification as not fit for purpose, the qualification will be made ineligible for continued public funding. This will ensure that up to date qualifications receive funding and out of date skills are no longer supported.

TREASURY

Bingo

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the impact of bingo club closures; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [204482]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials have regular discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government about a range of issues.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the revenue to the Exchequer which will accrue from taxation of petrol and diesel in 2008-09 if fuel prices remain at their current level; and what forecast he made for such revenues for 2008-09 in Budget 2008; [203778]

(2) what assumption was made in Budget 2008 about the price of a litre of petrol; [203779]

(3) what the tax take is on a litre of petrol costing 110 pence at the pump. [203781]

Angela Eagle: The current fuel duty payable on a litre of petrol is 50.35p and is the total amount of tax paid by businesses that can reclaim VAT. For households and businesses that cannot reclaim VAT, it is charged as 17.5 per cent. on the sum of the pre-tax price of petrol and fuel duty.

In estimating the impact on receipts of spending on fuel it is necessary to take into account a broad and complex range of reclaims and displacement factor, over a reasonable period of time.

The forecast revenue for 2008-09 from fuel duty is published in table C.6 of the 2008 Financial Statement and Budget Report. This can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08/report/bud_bud08_repindex.cfm

Road fuel duties are charged at a fixed amount per litre and higher road fuel prices generally reduce revenues from fuel duties as they result in lower fuel consumption. The impact of higher oil prices on overall tax revenues and the public finances is complex, and will depend on their wider impact on the economy in general, including the effect on factors such as profitability and retail prices. Reliable estimates of the impact of changes in prices are not available.

The petrol price incorporated into the Budget 2008 forecast for fuel duties was consistent with the NAO—National Audit Office—audited assumption on oil prices. This assumed that oil prices would average $83.8 a barrel in 2008, the average of independent forecasts.

Government Departments: Sustainable Development

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government departments have *(a)* approached Salix for assistance and *(b)* received assistance (from whatever source) in response to the procedure outlined on pages 4 and 5 in the UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan. [202547]

Angela Eagle: As part of the OGC Collaborative Procurement work, the energy team has been working closely with Salix and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to promote Salix's funding opportunities. To date Salix have met with the following Departments:

Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs
Ministry of Defence
Cabinet Office
HM Revenue and Customs
Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Justice
Department for Work and Pensions

Salix currently have an £800,000 fund committed to Defra.

The Carbon Trust also offers a range of support to Government Departments. In the 2007-08 financial year, following the publication of the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan, the Carbon Trust assisted the following Departments:

Cabinet Office
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for International Development
Department for Transport
Department of Health
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
HM Revenue and Customs
HM Treasury
HM Prisons Service
Ministry of Defence
Office of National Statistics
Export Credits Guarantee Department

Minimum Wage: Prosecutions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-4W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many employers have appealed against a minimum wage arrears enforcement notice in each year since the minimum wage was introduced, broken down by region. [203860]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-44W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many and what proportion of minimum wage enforcement notices have become due in each year since the introduction of the minimum wage, broken down by region. [203861]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-44W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, what arrangements are in place to check that employers who previously accrued minimum wage arrears are now compliant; and if he will make a statement. [203864]

Jane Kennedy: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs periodically conduct reviews of a sample of closed cases where they previously identified arrears. This review involves compliance officers revisiting employers to ensure that they are continuing to pay the minimum wage and have implemented any advice that HMRC provided in respect of record keeping.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-44W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many employers have had a case relating to minimum wage arrears heard before an employment tribunal in each year since the minimum wage was introduced; and how many of these appeals were successfully upheld. [203865]

Jane Kennedy: The following table provides information about the employment tribunal cases involving HMRC (formerly Inland Revenue) enforcing the minimum wage. The cases include both employer appeals against enforcement notices and other cases taken by HMRC. There would also have been other employment tribunal cases concerning minimum wage that went forward without HMRC involvement.

	Cases before an employment tribunal involving HMRC	*Successful employer appeals*
1999-2000	12	0
2000-01	26	0
2001-02	27	10
2002-03	24	2
2003-04	7	2
2004-05	8	2
2005-06	9	2
2006-07	7	4
2007-08	10	2

In recent years, where an enforcement notice has not been appealed or complied with, HMRC have sought arrears through county court action, rather than through the employment tribunal.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-44W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many employers have been recorded as having *(a)* obstructed minimum wage compliance officers and *(b)* failed to produce required records in each year since the minimum wage was introduced, broken down by region. [203867]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not keep statistics on the number of employers who have obstructed their compliance officers or failed to produce records. In 2007 there were two successful prosecutions of employers, one for obstructing a compliance officer and one for failing to produce records, in the London and South West regions. In 2008 there has been a successful prosecution of an employer in the East Midlands for failing to produce records.

Northern Rock

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the costs incurred by *(a)* Virgin, *(b)* Olivant and *(c)* Northern Rock's management team in connection with their bids for

Northern Rock which will be reimbursed to them by (i) Northern Rock and (ii) the Treasury. [189112]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 26 February 2008]:* Reimbursement of bidding related costs by Northern Rock to bidders is a commercial matter between them. HM Treasury has no plans to reimburse the costs in question.

Figures for costs of advisers incurred by Northern Rock on its own behalf and for other parties in 2007 were included in their published accounts for 2007:

http://companyinfo.northernrock.co.uk/downloads/2007_annual_report.pdf.

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the totals for *(a)* other liabilities and *(b)* other assets listed in the Bank of England's consolidated statement of 20 February is directly related to its financial support for Northern Rock. [189886]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* The Government do not generally comment on the Bank of England lending to individual institutions, which is a commercial matter between the Bank and that institution.

Northern Rock published its accounts for 2007 on 31 March 2008 at:

http://companyinfo.northernrock.co.uk/downloads/2007_annual_report.pdf

This includes some details about its outstanding loans from the Bank of England. The company operates at arm's length from the Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for its management to release further business updates.

Northern Rock: Guernsey

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 660W, on Northern Rock: consultants, whether the management of Northern Rock has now indicated to the Government its intention with regard to Northern Rock Guernsey Ltd; and whether the Government have indicated to the management of Northern Rock their preferred course of action with regard to this subsidiary. [199986]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from Government on commercial principles.

Northern Rock has published a business plan and a shareholder relationship framework agreement based on which HM Treasury will operate its shareholder relationship with the company. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has approved the two documents and has placed copies of the documents in the Library of both Houses.

Northern Rock: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what process resulted in the appointment of *(a)* Ron Sandler as Executive Chair and *(b)* Ann Godbehere as Chief Financial Officer of Northern Rock. [188858]

Kitty Ussher: Mr. Sandler and Ms Godbehere were appointed through a process that was in line with common industry practice of recruiting senior managers.

The Financial Services Authority has confirmed that both of them are suitable persons to direct the business.

Royal Mint: Grayling Political Strategy

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments the Royal Mint made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose the payments were made in each case. [202257]

Angela Eagle: Payments to Grayling Political Strategy by the Royal Mint in 2006-07 and 2007-08 were £61,792 and £84,388 respectively. These payments related to a retainer fee, press services and other miscellaneous items. No payments were made in earlier years.

Taxation: Pensioners

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of tax overpaid by pensioners who opt for four weekly or quarterly pension payments but whose tax codes assume 52 weekly payments in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [203297]

Kitty Ussher: Individuals are liable to income tax on the amount of pension income, including the state pension, they are entitled to receive in a tax year. They can choose to be paid their state pension weekly in advance, or four-weekly or quarterly in arrears. As this does not alter the amount of their income liable to tax, individuals do not overpay tax by virtue of being paid their state pension four-weekly or quarterly in arrears.

Tax is not deducted at source from state pension payments. Where an individual has another source of income which is under pay-as-you-earn (PAYE), HM Revenue and Customs will include the individual's full state pension entitlement in their tax code so that, as far as possible, the right amount of income tax is deducted at source for the year.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what critical military gaps remain to be filled in the NATO military requirement for Afghanistan. [203417]

Des Browne *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The Bucharest Summit saw a number of nations make significant additional commitments to the International Security Assistance Force; in particular President Sarkozy confirmed the deployment of an additional battalion of French troops to the east of the country.

Nevertheless, there remains a need for more training and mentoring personnel; combat forces in the south and east of Afghanistan; and key enablers, such as helicopters, to meet the Combined Joint Statement of Requirements for Afghanistan. The UK continues to work with partners to address these shortfalls.

Air Force: Deployment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were stationed at permanent commitment Royal Air Force bases in *(a)* the Falkland Islands, *(b)* Cyprus, *(c)* Nevada, *(d)* Gibraltar and *(e)* Ascension Island at the latest date for which figures are available. [203675]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As of April 2008, the information requested is as follows.

There are currently 489 service personnel stationed at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, 38 service personnel stationed at RAF Gibraltar and 17 service personnel stationed at Ascension Island Base.

There is no separate RAF base in the Falkland Islands, although the RAF units form an integral part of British Forces South Atlantic Island. There are 533 service personnel who are directly associated with RAF operations in the Falkland Islands.

There is no RAF base in Nevada. However, there are 80 service personnel serving with 39 Squadron RAF permanently based there.

Armed Forces: Females

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many women joined the *(a)* Royal Air Force, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army in each of the last 10 years. [203655]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The number of women joining the UK Regular Armed Forces 1 in the last 10 years can be found in Table 3 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 1—Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces. TSP 1 is published monthly. The most recent publication shows figures for the 12 months to 1 March 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tspl/intake.html.

Copies of TSP 1 are available in the Library of the House and at www.dasa.mod.uk

Figures show all intake to the UK Regular Forces including re-enlistments and rejoined reservists.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to help *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* service leavers onto the property ladder. [203982]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) encourages Service personnel to prepare for their return to civilian life during their careers by purchasing their own homes. A Long Service Advance of Pay is available which currently consists of an interest-free loan of up to £8,500. In September 2006, Service personnel were given access to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Key Worker Living programme (KWL). On 28 December, the Government extended the scheme for KWL low cost home ownership schemes for qualifying Service personnel across all English regions. This will continue to give additional routes for Service personnel to enter the housing market.

In addition, we announced in a written statement on 19 March 2008 that we are launching a new initiative on home ownership for Service personnel. This will be a pilot scheme tailored to the particular needs of Service personnel. In the coming months we will work with commercial providers and public bodies to identify the most suitable approach. £20 million has been allocated for this pilot scheme which will be launched during financial year 2009-10 and run for up to four years.

The MOD also has a Joint Service Housing Advice Office that gives regular briefings which are available to all Service personnel. In addition to these, they can provide detailed advice and information on specific aspects related to sourcing accommodation. Service leavers may also be provided with assistance to find housing, although this would not necessarily be related to the property ladder'.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of service accommodation units owned by Annington Homes have been sold since 1997. [203984]

Derek Twigg: Once surplus properties are handed back to Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL) there is no requirement for the Department to maintain records of their subsequent use or sale.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British members of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* RAF left the service before their term of service was due to end in 2007. [193363]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the number of British personnel to leave the UK regular forces[1] during the calendar year 2007 (for Naval service and RAF) and during calendar year 2006 for the Army.

Business area	*Outflow[3] before time expiry*
Navy	[4]3,510
Army[2]	11,650
RAF	[4]2,880

[1] Figures are for UK regular forces and therefore include nursing services and exclude full time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.
[2] Due to ongoing validation of data from the new Personnel Administration System, all Army Voluntary Applications data from 1 April 2007 are unavailable. Therefore the Army outflow figure is for the calendar year of 2006.
[3] Figures include all outflow to civil life excluding time expiry.
[4] Data are provisional.
Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Mates: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of increasing the pension entitlement of those forces' widows receiving one-third of their late husband's pension entitlement to one-half. [197894]

Derek Twigg: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister for the Armed Forces on 18 January 2002, *Official Report*, column 500W. The situation remains unchanged.

Army

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the Army's capability to react to the unexpected. [203773]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army and armed forces as a whole continues to plan for contingencies and should the unexpected occur we would respond accordingly.

Army: Labour Turnover

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have *(a)* joined and *(b)* left the regular Army since 2005. [203718]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of people joining the regular Army since 2005 can be found in Table 3 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 1—Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces. The number of people leaving the Army since 2005 can be found in Table 4 of the same publication. TSP1 is published monthly. The most recent publication shows figures for 1 April 2003 to 1 March 2008 and can be found at http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tspl/intake.html for intake[1] and http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tspl/outflow.html for outflow[2]. Copies of TSP1 are available in the Library of the House and also at http://www.dasa.mod.uk.

[1] Figures show all intake to UK Regular Forces including re-enlistments and rejoined reservists.

[2] Figures show all outflow from UK Regular Forces including recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the memorandum of agreement concerning the Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station at Fylingdales Moor of 1960. [203583]

Des Browne: I presume that the hon. Member is referring to the document entitled Exchange of Notes between the United States of America and the UK relating to a Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station at Fylingdales Moor dated 15 February 1960. This document is available on the United Nations website at http://untreaty.un.org/unts/1_60000/10/40/00019975.pdf. I shall also place a copy of the document in the Library of the House.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199622]

Derek Twigg: The costs for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows:

	2005-06	*£ million 2006-07*
Permanent civil service staff	1,809	1,803
Permanent non-civil service staff	258	246
Temporary/agency staff	377	504

Figures are derived from the annual report and accounts and reflect personnel employed within the Departmental Boundary for the Annual Accounts, and therefore exclude Trading Funds.

The figure for permanent non-civil service staff includes locally engaged civilians employed overseas, and Ministers. The figure for temporary and agency staff includes both directly employed casual staff and payments to contractors for agency staff. Monthly figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what allowances and bonuses civilian staff receive for being located to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [203209]

Derek Twigg: Civil servants deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan receive two operational allowances and one grant. The operational deployment allowance reflects the day-to-day challenges and hardships of life in an operational theatre compared to the normal living and working environment. The operational working allowance, which differs depending on location and grade, reflects the significantly longer hours associated with operational posts. Finally, an operational deployment grant covers the additional cost of suitable clothing, personal effects and luggage for the area of deployment.

There are no bonuses awarded specifically for being located in Iraq or Afghanistan but service here counts towards the consideration of annual performance awards in the same way as all other Ministry of Defence civil servants.

Departmental Property

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what property his Department owns *(a)* in London, *(b)* elsewhere in the UK and *(c)* overseas; and what the latest available valuation of the property was in each case. [203511]

Derek Twigg: Details of all Ministry of Defence holdings over £1 million and their latest asset valuation are available in Chapter 7 of the National Asset Register (CM7022), which can be found on HM Treasury's website.

Records of all MOD property below £1 million in value could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Pensions

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of former service personnel is receiving a pension from his Department. [203456]

Derek Twigg: The proportion of former service personnel receiving a pension cannot be identified as the overall number of surviving veterans is not known. However, the number of pensions in payment, broken down by scheme is as follows:

Pension scheme	*Pensions in payment*
War Disablement pension scheme	167,700
Armed Forces pension scheme	295,824
Armed Forces compensation scheme	29
Reserve Forces pension scheme	33
Total number of pensions in payment	463,586

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1310W, on Iraq: detainees, what monitoring and administration of individuals in detention is necessary; and what the UK's reporting obligations are to the International Committee of the Red Cross. [200806]

Des Browne *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* In order to ensure that we can effectively administer individuals while they are detained by the UK armed forces, it is necessary to obtain and record some personal details. This is important, for example, to enable the relevant persons, such as their next of kin, to be informed of their detention and the location in which they are being detained. We collect information on an individual throughout their time in our detention, including their date of capture, medical records, and the date of release or transfer.

We are obliged, as laid out in the Coalition Provisional Authority Memorandum Number 3 (Revised), to report to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) information on individuals we have in our detention in Iraq and to grant the ICRC access to them.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the armed forces' helicopter fleet of the types *(a)* Apache, *(b)* Gazelle, *(c)* Lynx Mk3, *(d)* Lynx Mk7, *(e)* Lynx Mk8, *(f)* Lynx Mk9, *(g)* Merlin Mk1 and *(h)* Merlin Mk3 were deployed on operations in the last 12 months. [202153]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

RAF Brize Norton

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation are in each standard for condition grade at RAF Brize Norton. [203210]

Derek Twigg: All single living accommodation (SLA) in Great Britain is assessed by grade for charge (GfC), an assessment of the chargeable condition which takes into account physical condition along with other factors such as the size of the property and closeness to amenities. Service family accommodation (SFA) in Great Britain is assessed by standard for condition (SfC), an assessment of the physical condition of the property alone. In both standard and grade, one is the highest and four the lowest.

SLA at RAF Brize Norton is at the following GfC

	Number of SLA bed-spaces	*As a percentage of the total stock*
Grade 1	688	32
Grade 2	303	14
Grade 3	587	27
Grade 4	580	27

SFA is at the following SfC

	Number of SFA properties	*As a percentage of the total stock*
S1fC	308	26
S2fC	532	45
S3fC	334	29
S4fC	0	0

While the Department recognises that some accommodation at Brize Norton is not of the standard that service personnel and their families deserve we are taking steps to address this. We plan to invest over £38 million to deliver some 670 new en-suite bed-spaces by 2012 after which around 70 per cent. of the SLA at Brize Norton will be at Grade 1 or 2. There will be no occupied Grade 4 accommodation at Brize Norton after 2008-09.

Regarding SFA, we plan to demolish and rebuild to the highest standard some 600 of the poorest condition SFA properties.

From 2012, RAF Brize Norton will become the UK's single air port of embarkation for the deployment and recovery of forces and material committed to operations and training. Programme CATARA (the Centralisation of Air Transport and Air to Air Refuelling assets and Associated Units), is taking forward the development and reconfiguration of the station's infrastructure to ensure RAF Brize Norton's future contribution to the Defence output can be delivered effectively and efficiently. In connection with this project, we will provide an additional 200 SFA.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of eligible children in care were not entered for any GCSE in each of the last 10 years; [203591]

(2) how many and what percentage of eligible children in care did not achieve five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics in each of the last 10 years; [203592]

(3) how many and what percentage of eligible children in care were not entered for an English, mathematics, science or foreign language GCSE in each year since 1997. [203594]

Jim Knight: The national data collections on the educational outcomes for looked-after children were introduced in 2000. Data collected since 2000 and published in "Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children Twelve months to 30 September", show the GCSE performance or equivalents of children who were looked after for at least 12 months. The available information for England is shown in the table.

GCSE performance or equivalents of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months in year 11[1], 12 months ending 30 September 2000 to 2007, England

	Sat at least one GCSE or GNVQ		One GCSE at grade A* to G or a GNVQ		Five A* to C GCSE grades (or equivalent)		Five A* to G GCSE grades (or equivalent)	
	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
2000	2,100	53.5	1,900	49.2	300	7.3	1,400	35.5
2001	2,200	54.1	2,100	49.6	330	8.0	1,400	33.1
2002	2,500	57.9	2,300	53.2	320	7.5	1,500	36.3
2003	2,600	56.8	2,400	52.9	400	8.7	1,700	36.8
2004	2,900	59.1	2,700	56.1	450	9.4	1,900	39.4
2005	3,000	64.0	2,900	60.2	510	10.8	1,900	40.7
2006	3,300	65.6	3,200	63.2	600	11.8	2,100	41.4
2007	3,400	67.7	3,200	63.7	640	12.6	2,200	43.1

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 1,000, and to the nearest 100 if over 1,000.
[2] Expressed as a percentage of all looked-after children in year 11.
Source:
OC2 Survey.

Although we do not collect figures on the number of children looked after who were entered for a GCSE, we do have information on the number who sat at least one GCSE/GNVQ. This is shown in the table.

We do not collect information about the number of looked-after children who achieve GCSE grades in individual subjects. However, these data are available at a local level enabling local authorities to set targets for the attainment of looked-after children at key stage 4 which include English and mathematics. These targets are negotiated with the National Strategies and Government offices and form a statutory part of a local authority's local area agreement.

Since 1997, there has been an unprecedented focus at national and local level on improving outcomes for looked-after children. Over a five-year period from 1998, the Government invested £885 million through the Quality Protects initiative and a further £113 million through their Choice Protects funding. Looked-after children often have highly complex needs and improving their outcomes is a top Government priority.

In-spite of improvements, outcomes are nowhere near good enough. That is why we are now building on the Care Standards Act 2002, which introduced National Minimum Standards for children's services, and the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, which for the first time provided a legislative framework to support care leavers make the transition to adulthood. We have made nearly £300 million extra available to deliver "Care Matters: Time for Change" and the implementation plan "Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care", including the introduction of a personal education allowance for all looked-after children who are at risk of not reaching the expected national standards of attainment. Through the Children and Young Persons Bill, currently before Parliament, we intend to require all schools to have a designated teacher to champion the needs of looked-after children and to ensure that local authorities do everything possible to avoid disrupting their education and training.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of nursery children who travel to and from nursery *(a)* by car, *(b)* by public transport, *(c)* on foot and *(d)* by bicycle. [200559]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold complete data relating to mode of travel to school. Provision of this information is only compulsory for those schools with an approved Travel Plan. The scope of collection includes: maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges, academies and special schools.

In the spring 2007 School Census, mode of travel data was supplied for almost 70 per cent. of pupils. The available information relating to nursery pupils is provided in the following table.

LA maintained nursery and primary schools[1]: nursery pupils by mode of travel[2,3], as at January 2007, England

	Nursery pupils[2]	
	Number	Percentage
Walk	135,390	42.2
Cycle	900	0.3
Car/van	61,550	19.2
Car share	3,960	1.2
Public service bus	3,010	0.9
Dedicated school bus	370	0.1
Bus (type not known)	980	0.3
Taxi	610	0.2
Train	70	0.0
London underground	20	0.0
Metro/tram/light rail	50	0.0
Boarding pupil—not applicable	0	0.0
Other	1,120	0.4
Mode of travel—not collected	112,540	35.1
Total	320,550	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes all pupils in maintained nursery schools and pupils in maintained primary schools whose national curriculum year group is nursery. Includes pupils with sole and dual (main) registration.
[3] Where a pupil uses more than one mode of travel for each journey to school, the longest element of the journey by distance should be recorded.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many child care staff left the profession within *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five years of entering the profession in the latest period for which figures are available. [204159]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children's centres to be located in the super output areas ranked in the *(a)* first to third, *(b)* fourth to seventh and *(c)* eighth to tenth deciles of deprivation by 2010. [204177]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are responsible for the planning and delivery of Sure Start children's centres. There are currently 2,906 designated centres. On average we expect children's centres to offer services to around 800 children under five and their families so in practice one children's centre will serve a number of Super Output Areas (SOAs), as well as the SOA in which it is located. From the information provided by local authorities to our delivery partner, Together for Children (TfC), our current estimate is that around two-thirds of designated centres predominantly serve children and families living in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged SOAs. The remaining centres predominantly serve children and families living outside of the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged SOAs.

Local authorities, supported by TfC, are currently planning the final phase of delivery of the children's centre programme, so that by 2010 there will be 3,500 centres nationally, one for every community. As part of the planning process local authorities are reviewing the reach areas of existing centres to ensure that by 2010 all under fives and their families have access to a children's centre; that the range and intensity of services in each centre reflects the needs of the local community; and that resources continue to be focused on the most disadvantaged areas.

Citizenship: Teachers

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers of citizenship there were in secondary schools in Easington constituency at the most recent date for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the average number of hours each week of citizenship teaching which took place in each school in the constituency in the last 12 month. [203786]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information is available for the number of teachers teaching citizenship for England overall from the Secondary Schools Curriculum Staffing Survey (SSCSS) which is an occasional sample survey last conducted in 2002 and 2007. 2007 figures will be published on 29 May 2008. The 2002 survey showed that there were 9,000 teachers in secondary schools teaching citizenship.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [200120]

Kevin Brennan: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). To respond fully would involve an extensive internal and external information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold. DCSF does not keep central telephony records for its arms length bodies. However, to be helpful, the following information, relating solely to DCSF headquarters, can be provided.

DCSF currently employs a total of 24 non-geographic telephone numbers. These can be categorised broadly into two groups: those for use by citizens; and those for use internally by DCSF staff.

Services used by citizens and accessed by customers calling non-geographic telephone numbers are shown in the following table.

Helpline	*Number*	*Information/help provided*
Headship Information Line	0845 716 5136	Information in connection with national headship training programmes
EDUBASE	0870 120 2527	Provision of schools data to the public
Sexwise Helpline	0800 28 29 30	For under 18s—answers queries on sex and relationships
Office of the Schools Adjudicator	0870 001 2468	Schools Adjudication service
Education Maintenance Allowance	0800 056 2811	Helpline for organisations involved in delivering EMA
Young Minds	0800 018 2138	For parents concerned about the mental health of a baby, young person
One Parent Families	0800 018 5026	Support for lone parents
Family Rights Group	0800 731 1696	Support for families whose children are involved with social services
DCSF Main Switchboard officials	0870 001 2345	Service to route callers to DCSF
DCSF Public Inquiry Line	0870 000 2288	General information line for all DCSF related inquiries
Prolog	0845 602 2260	DCSF publications helpline
Families need Fathers	0870 760 7496	Help parents to retain, develop and make best use of children's relationship's
Fast Track Helpline	0845 601 5921	Queries from fast track teachers and head teachers
Fast Track recruitment helpline	0845 058 1066	Teachers applying to join the Fast Track Teaching programme

Helpline	Number	Information/help provided
Teacher information line	0845 600 0991	Advice on training opportunities and support available
Return to teach line	0845 600 0993	Advice on training opportunities and support available
National Strategies Helpdesk	0845 850 1444	To support the delivery of the national strategies

Extended Schools

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of secondary schools offering an extended school service *(a)* at least once a week and *(b)* more than once a week in each year for which figures are available. [204158]

Beverley Hughes: We expect all schools to be providing access to the full core offer of extended services by 2010. Currently there are 2,004 secondary schools providing the full core offer. All of these will be offering extended services more than once a week. There are many other schools which are already providing access to parts of the core offer that are not yet included in these figures.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath, of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1548-49W, on the general certificate of secondary education, which are the nine schools in the 90 to 100 per cent. least deprived catchments with less than 30 per cent. five A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics; and if he will make a statement. [203109]

Jim Knight: The information requested is set out as follows.

The nine schools located in the 90 to 100 per cent. least deprived catchments with less than 30 per cent. five A* to C GCSEs, including English and Mathematics, in 2007 are listed in the following table:

LA name	School name
Bromley	Kelsey Park Sports College
Buckinghamshire	The Beaconsfield School
Essex	Sawyers Hall College of Science and Technology
Kent	Aylesford School Sports College
	New Line Learning Academy[1]
Richmond-upon-Thames	Scheme School
South Gloucestershire	Bradley Stoke Community School[1]
Sutton	Stanley Park High School
Wiltshire	St. Joseph's Catholic School

[1] These two schools did not have any 15-year-old pupils in 2007.

The figures excluding schools that did not have any 15-year-old pupils in 2007 are as follows (original figures previously supplied in answer to PQ 198658 on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1548-49W, in brackets):

Schools not achieving target of 30 per cent. of 15-year-old pupils achieving five plus A-C GCSE and equivalents including English and mathematics, by IMD, 2007*

IMD decile[1]	Total number of schools[2]	Number of schools with less than 30 per cent. five plus A*-C inc English and maths	Percentage of schools with less than 30 per cent. five plus A*-C inc English and maths
0-10 per cent. most deprived	249 (259)	134 (144)	53.8 (55.6)
10-20 per cent.	299 (309)	118 (129)	39.5 (41.7)
20-30 per cent.	292 (301)	90 (99)	30.8 (32.9)
30-40 per cent.	334 (336)	89 (91)	26.6 (27.1)
40-50 per cent.	339 (351)	62 (74)	18.3 (21.1)
50-60 per cent.	298 (305)	45 (52)	15.1 (17.0)
60-70 per cent.	324 (330)	37 (43)	11.4 (13.0)
70-80 per cent.	293 (297)	31 (35)	10.6 (11.8)
80-90 per cent.	316 (322)	26 (32)	8.2 (9.9)
90-100 per cent. least deprived	302 (304)	7 (9)	2.3 (3.0)

[1] Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004.
[2] Including only those maintained mainstream schools with results published in the School and College Achievement and Attainment tables.
Note:
Counting on the basis of 15-year-old pupils, not pupils at the end of Key Stage 4
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables 2007

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many eligible pupils did not obtain five GCSEs at any grade, excluding equivalents, in each year since 1997. [203223]

Jim Knight: The information for 1998/99 onwards is given as follows. Figures for 1996/97 and 1997/98 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of eligible pupils who did not achieve five GCSEs at any grade	Percentage of eligible pupils who did not achieve five GCSEs at any grade
2006/07	100,510	15.5
2005/06	82,278	12.7
2004/05	77,628	12.3
2003/04	77,911	12.1
2002/03	91,320	14.7

	Number of eligible pupils who did not achieve five GCSEs at any grade	Percentage of eligible pupils who did not achieve five GCSEs at any grade
2001/02	87,237	14.4
2000/01	85,820	14.2
1999/2000	90,685	15.6
1998/99	98,177	16.9

Notes:
1. From 2004/05 onwards figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Figures in 2002/03 and 2003/04 relate to 15-year-olds pupils (age at start of academic year, ie 31 August 2002).
2. The figures relate to pupils attending all schools.
3. The figures relate to GCSEs only.

Mathematics: Primary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the use of Reform mathematics in the teaching of mathematics in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [203792]

Jim Knight: The Government do not have a policy relating specifically to the use of Reform mathematics in the teaching of mathematics in primary schools.

However, the Government fully recognise the importance of good quality mathematics teaching in order to improve pupils' achievement in mathematics and their enthusiasm for the subject at all levels of their education. That is why we asked Sir Peter Williams to undertake his review of mathematics teaching in early years settings and primary schools. The review published its interim report on the 19 March 2008 and is set to publish its final report in June 2008.

Primary Education

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the datasets on road distance to a primary school for lower layer super output areas provided by the Department for Education and Skills to assist in the compilation of the Index of Deprivation in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [203144]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold the requested information. The 'road distance to primary school' indicators used in the calculation of the 2004 and 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) were calculated on behalf of colleagues in Communities and Local Government by the Social Disadvantage Research Centre, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford. The indicator used in the calculation of the 2004 Indices, based on information for the academic year 2001/02, is available on the Neighbourhood Statistics website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/neighbourhood-statistics.asp. I understand that colleagues in Communities and Local Government are seeking the relevant permissions to enable them to publish the underlying indicators of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 at lower super output area level, including those in the geographical barriers sub-domain. It is my understanding that a copy of these indicators will be placed in the Library of the House.

Further information about the underlying indicators used in the calculation of the 2004 and 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation is available at the Neighbourhood Statistics and Communities and Local Government websites

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/indiciesdeprivation07.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average expenditure on each pupil in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education in the County of Durham was in each year since 2003. [203789]

Jim Knight: The available information on the average expenditure per pupil in primary and secondary education for Durham is as follows:

£

	Primary	Secondary
2002-03	2,590	3,140
2003-04	2,810	3,500
2004-05	3,000	3,780
2005-06	3,280	4,090
2006-07	3,480	4,390

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the proportion of the education budget which was *(a)* devolved directly to schools, *(b)* devolved directly to local authorities and *(c)* allocated by his Department in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [203806]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not yet available. The Department is currently updating this information for its 2008 departmental annual report due to be published at the end of May. I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as the information is available.

Schools: Fire Hazards

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to raise awareness of fire hazards associated with certain types of composite building panels among those involved in the Building Schools for the Future programme. [203709]

Jim Knight: The Department has already published comprehensive guidance on the fire hazards associated with some types of composite building panels in Building Bulletin 100 "Design for fire safety in

schools". The Building Bulletin was written for DCSF by the Fire and Safety Unit at the Building Research Establishment and was published in 2007. BB100 is quoted as the compliance document for schools in Approved Document B (Fire Safety) 2006 edition, in support of the Building Regulations. In order to obtain Building Regulations approval, new and refurbished schools, including those in the Building Schools for the Future programme, must comply with Approved Document B.

Appendix B of BB100: Fire behaviour of insulating core panels covers composite building panels and gives design recommendations for their use in schools. This guidance is based on research that BRE carried out for the Home Office in 1996-97 on the fire hazards of some types of composite panels and the findings are valid for many building types, including schools.

Special Educational Needs: Dyslexia

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if his Department will accredit a specialist qualification, recognised by the British Dyslexia Association, for teachers in assessing and supporting dyslexic children; [204028]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of a system to identify children at risk of dyslexia as early as possible in the education system. [204029]

Kevin Brennan: In a written ministerial statement on 6 May 2008, the Secretary of State for Children, School and Families announced that the Government have asked Sir Jim Rose, in the light of evidence, to make recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia, and on how best to take forward the commitment in the Children's Plan to establish a pilot scheme in which children with dyslexia will receive Reading Recovery support or one-to-one tuition from specialist dyslexia teachers. We would expect him to address issues of specialist teaching and early identification.

Specialised Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools entitled to but which have not yet become specialist schools there are *(a)* in each local authority area *(b)* with a proportion of children entitled to free school meals of (i) under 10 per cent., (ii) over 20 per cent., (iii) over 30 per cent. and (iv) over 40 per cent. and *(c)* which have applied for, but not been granted, specialist status in the last three years. [201104]

Jim Knight: There are 343 secondary schools eligible to join the Specialist Schools Programme but which have not yet submitted a successful application. The numbers are listed in the following table per local authority. Of these 343 (i) 86 schools have under 10 per cent. of children with free school meals, (ii) 95 schools have over 10 per cent. of children with free school meals, (iii) 78 schools have over 20 per cent. of children with free school meals, (iv) 44 schools have over 30 per cent. of children with free school meals, (v) 33 schools have over 40 per cent. of children with free school meals and (vi) there are seven schools for which we do not have the information. 134 of the schools have applied for specialist status in the last three years but have not been successful. Some of these have schools have applied on more that one occasion during that period.

Local authorities	*Number not a specialist school*	*Number of non-specialist schools with 10% of children on free school meals*	*Number over 10%*	*Number over 20%*	*Number over 30%*	*Number over 40%*	*Number for which we have no fsm data*	*Number of eligible schools that have applied for specialist status in last 3 years*
Barking and Dagenham, LB of	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Barnet, LB of	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Barnsley	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	2
Bedfordshire	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Bexley, LB of	3	1	2	1	2	—	—	—
Birmingham	4	—	—	—	1	3	—	2
Blackburn with Darwen	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Bolton	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Bournemouth	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bracknell Forest	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Bradford	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	1
Brighton and Hove	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Bristol, city of	4	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
Buckinghamshire	4	2	1	—	—	1	—	3
Bury	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calderdale	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Camden, LB of	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Cambridgeshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cheshire	2	1			1	—	—	1
Coventry	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Croydon, LB of	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	2

Local authorities	Number not a specialist school	Number of non-specialist schools with 10% of children on free school meals	Number over 10%	Number over 20%	Number over 30%	Number over 40%	Number for which we have no fsm data	Number of eligible schools that have applied for specialist status in last 3 years
Cumbria	6	—	3	2	—	1	—	2
Darlington	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Derby, city of	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Derbyshire	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	1
Doncaster	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dorset	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dudley	4	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
East Sussex	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Enfield, LB of	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	1
Essex	9	2	3	4	—	—	—	3
Gloucestershire	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	2
Greenwich, LB of	5	1	—	—	3	—	1	1
Hackney, LB of	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Halton	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Hampshire	6	1	3	2	—	—	—	2
Haringey, LB of	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Havering, LB of	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hertfordshire	6	4	2	—	—	—	—	4
Hillingdon, LB of	4	1	—	—	3	—	—	2
Hounslow, LB of	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Isle of Wight	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Islington, LB of	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Kent	8	2	4	2	—	—	—	5
Kingston upon Hull, city of	5	—	2	2	1	—	—	—
Kirklees	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Knowsley	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Lancashire	12	3	2	4	3	—	—	1
Leeds	6	—	—	1	2	3	—	1
Leicester, city of	3	—	—	2	—	—	1	2
Leicestershire	20	15	5	—	—	—	—	4
Lewisham, LB of	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Lincolnshire	11	4	5	2	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Luton	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Manchester	4	—	—	—	—	4	4	2
Medway	5	1	3	1	—	—	—	2
Merton, LB of	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Milton Keynes	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	2
Newcastle Upon Tyne	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Newham, LB of	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	2
Norfolk	5	4	—	1	—	—	—	5
North East Lincolnshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
North Lincolnshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
North Tyneside	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	1
Northumberland	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Nottingham, City of	7	—	—	2	1	4	—	1
Nottinghamshire	6	—	3	3	—	—	—	2
Oldham	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	2
Oxfordshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Peterborough, City of	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Poole	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
Portsmouth	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Reading	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Local authorities	Number not a specialist school	Number of non-specialist schools with 10% of children on free school meals	Number over 10%	Number over 20%	Number over 30%	Number over 40%	Number for which we have no fsm data	Number of eligible schools that have applied for specialist status in last 3 years
Redbridge, LB of	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redcar and Cleveland	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Richmond upon Thames, LB of	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Rochdale	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Rotherham	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Salford	5	1	—	3	—	1	1	2
Sandwell	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
Sefton	4	—	1	3	—	—	—	1
Sheffield	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Shropshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Slough	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Solihull	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Somerset	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
South Gloucestershire	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
South Tyneside	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Southampton	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Southend on Sea	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
St. Helens	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	3
Stockport	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Stockton on Tees	4	1	2	—	1	—	—	3
Stoke on Trent	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Suffolk	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Sunderland	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Surrey	10	7	3	—	—	—	—	2
Sutton, LB of	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Swindon	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Tameside	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Telford and Wrekin	4	—	1	2	1	—	—	2
Torbay	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tower Hamlets, LB of	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Waltham Forest, LB of	4	1	—	—	2	1	—	1
Wandsworth, LB of	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
Warrington	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Warwickshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
West Sussex	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Westminster, LB of	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Wiltshire	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Windsor and Maidenhead, RB of	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wirral	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wokingham	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Wolverhampton	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Worcestershire	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
No data schools	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	343	86	95	78	44	33	7	134

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average annual change in earnings of teachers who were continuously employed in the teaching system between 1997 and 2008; and if he will make a statement. [203495]

Jim Knight: Provisional information on the average salary of teachers is available to March 2006. Between April 1997 and March 2006, the average gross salary increase for full-time regular qualified teachers in the local authority maintained sector in England and Wales, who were recorded as being in continuous service during the period, was 73.2 per cent. in cash terms. Taking a simple average across this nine-year period gives an average annual increase of 8.1 per cent.

The figure provided is for teachers of all grades and the salaries, and include all allowances. They are as recorded in March of each year and are from the Database of Teachers Records. Teachers were included

where their service was shown as continuous during the period 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2006. In a small number of cases, some of this service may have been completed outside of the local authority maintained sector. Only salaries paid inside the sector have been used in the calculation of the average salary increase.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 250W, on teachers: training, how much has been allocated for spending on the national strategies programmes in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [203905]

Jim Knight: The expected spending on the National Strategies programmes for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 will be in the region of £488 million, £525 million and £561 million respectively. The increased spending reflects the phased roll-out of the Every Child a Reader, Every Child Counts and Every Child a Writer intervention programmes for children in primary schools.

Funding beyond the 2007 comprehensive spending review has yet to be determined.

JUSTICE

Churches: Wales

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many churches in Wales have been listed in connection with the chancel repair liability provisions of the Land Registration Act 2002. [203991]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry does not hold this information in the form requested. Under the Land Registration Act 2002 (Transitional Provisions)(No2) Order 2003, a right in respect of the repair of a church chancel operates as an overriding interest in the case of both first registrations and registerable dispositions.

Land Registry does not keep specific records of the number of successful applications made for an entry in respect of this particular liability. It is able to obtain some information by a search of its computerised register database but this information is not conclusive because of the different ways in which the liability is disclosed and consequently either noted in the register or protected by way of a caution against first registration. Information that is held by Land Registry identifies the registered title of one property in Wales that contains an entry in respect of the liability. However, there may be others that could not be identified without a detailed search of each register of title to land in Wales.

Courts

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many warrants were issued against an individual for failure to appear in court in each of the last five years. [203563]

Maria Eagle: The information requested has only been collected since April 2005 and is in the following table:

FTA warrants issued	*England and Wales*[1]
	Number
During 2005-06	163,993
During 2006-07	146,936
April to Dec 2007	96,687

[1] Figures are totals issued in the period specified.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many warrants issued for a failure to appear in court are outstanding. [203564]

Maria Eagle: As at 31 December 2007 there were a total of 27,680 FTA warrants outstanding across England and Wales.

Electronic Voting

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans the Government have to make further use of electronic *(a)* voting and *(b)* counting at elections. [203517]

Mr. Wills: In the Governance of Britain Green Paper, the Government set out a long-term aim to investigate the potential benefits of remote electronic voting and to take advantage of developing communication technologies to provide increased accessibility, flexibility and choice in the way people vote.

In the immediate term, we are reviewing the lessons learnt from previous electronic voting and counting pilots. This will help us to plan our future activities around electronic voting and counting.

Prisoners Transfers: Young Offenders

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many youth offending team inspections found that young offenders were sharing transport with adult prisoners in each of the last three years, broken down by establishment; and if he will make a statement. [203552]

Mr. Hanson: Youth offending teams are not responsible for arranging transport to custody and the issue of juvenile and adult prisoners sharing the same vehicle is not addressed in their inspections.

Escort contractors retain information by contractual year; September to August. No records are kept on the number of young adult prisoners (aged 18 to 20 years) sharing transport with adult prisoners, as this is permitted under the contracts.

Juvenile prisoners (aged 15 to 17 years) and adult prisoners should not travel in the same vehicle except in special circumstances, for example when the delay in waiting for a separate vehicle is not in the best interests of the individual. Where juvenile and adult prisoners travel in the same vehicle they are escorted onto the vehicle separately, segregated while on the vehicle and a custody officer remains in the back of the vehicle throughout the journey to ensure their welfare.

Information is held on the number of occasions that juvenile prisoners have shared transport with adult prisoners since September 2005. The information is not recorded by establishment.

Period	Number of occasions juvenile prisoners shared transport with adult prisoners	Total number of juvenile prisoners escorted
September 2005 to August 2006	2,840	76,289
September 2006 to August 2007	2,524	75,685
September 2007 to August 2008	981	40,829

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times physical interventions were used in secure training centres for the purposes of restraint *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each year since 2000, broken down by establishment; and if he will make a statement. [204312]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out the number of recorded restrictive physical interventions in secure training centres 1 April 2007 to March 2008. The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

The Youth Justice Board has been collecting data against common definitions from April 2007. Comparable data is not available for earlier periods.

	2007									2008		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Hassock Field	49	56	38	49	96	49	42	44	18	27	32	19
Rainsbrook	20	26	21	42	50	29	52	45	30	18	16	24
Oakhill	33	1	151	149	86	71	67	93	78	35	61	118
Medway	68	80	66	146	81	53	81	67	75	75	36	41
Total	170	270	276	386	313	202	242	211	201	155	145	202

Young Offender Institutions: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which young offender institutions do not provide child and adolescent mental health support. [203588]

Mr. Hanson: All young offender institutions in England have access to in-reach child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

The commissioning of secondary/tertiary care health services to YOIs based in Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government/NHS Wales.

Young Offender Institutions: Pharmacy

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many youth offending team inspections expressed concern relating to pharmacy management and loss of medication in each of the last three years, broken down by establishment; and if he will make a statement. [203553]

Mr. Hanson: Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are not responsible for pharmacy in secure establishments, and this issue is not addressed in YOT inspections. This is a matter for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP).

A full list of reports of prisons and Young Offenders Institutions is available on the HMIP website at:

http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprisons/inspect_reports/hmp-yoi-inspections.html/

The information requested on inspections of YOIs in England which raised concerns about local pharmacy management is shown in the table. No report expressed concern on loss of medication during the last three years.

Young Offender Institutions in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly.

Establishment YOIs in England	Years of reports in which recommendations were made regarding pharmacy issues: 2005-07
Ashfield	2006,
Brinsford	2005, 2007
Castington	2006,
Cookham Wood	2006
Downview	2006
Eastwood Park	[1]
Feltham	2007
Foston Hall	[1]
Hindley	2006
Huntercombe	2006
Lancaster Farms	[1]
New Hall	[1]
Stoke Heath	2005
Thorn Cross	2005
Warren Hill	2007
Werrington	[1]
Wetherby	[1]

[1] None

Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which young offender institutions have been found by inspectors to be using health care beds for behaviour management purposes in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [203585]

Mr. Hanson: To provide information for the last five years would be at disproportionate cost. However, in reports published since January 2007, Her Majesties Inspectorate of Prisons has identified five young offenders institutions which have been using health care beds for behaviour management purposes—HMP and YOI Brinsford, HMYOI Hindley, HMYOI Lancaster Farms, HMP and YOI Lewes and HMP and YOI Parc.

Action plans produced in response to the recommendations made in the Brinsford and Hindley reports have confirmed that young people at these prisons are no longer placed in the health care unit for behaviour management reasons. A health care needs analysis is being undertaken at Lancaster Farms and will consider this issue. Action plans have yet to be produced in respect of the Lewes and Parc reports.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries were sustained by offenders held in *(a)* secure training centres, *(b)* secure children's homes and *(c)* young offender institutions in each year since 2000, broken down by establishment; and if he will make a statement. [204313]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board has been collecting data against common definitions from April 2007. Comparable data across the children and young people's custodial estate is not available for earlier periods.

The following table shows the number of injuries sustained by trainees as a result of assault, restraint or self harm.

	2007									2008	
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*
Secure training centres											
Hassockfield	3	14	1	1	9	5	5	5	0	1	2
Rainsbrook	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	6	2	0	1
Oakhill	13	26	16	11	36	21	25	9	8	3	3
Medway	20	14	11	20	10	7	4	14	6	8	4
Young offender institutions											
Ashfield	3	8	15	13	16	9	15	7	10	3	1
Parc	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Brinsford	9	9	1	3	3	1	2	4	3	4	1
Castington	1	1	0	3	2	1	2	0	3	1	2
Feltham	17	17	17	21	4	8	1	12	0	4	15
Hindley	4	2	3	3	1	5	0	2	2	6	3
Huntercombe	0	8	10	3	3	0	11	17	0	2	5
Lancaster Farms	5	15	10	21	7	1	3	4	2	1	4
Stoke Heath	0	1	2	7	4	2	3	1	4	3	1
Thorn Cross	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Warren Hill	11	10	2	2	1	3	2	1	5	3	1
Werrington	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2
Wetherby	1	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	0	4	9
CookhamWood[1]	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Downview	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	—	0
Eastwood Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foston Hall	0	0	15	5	13	19	8	1	4	6	5
New Hall	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
Secure children's homes											
Aldine House	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Atkinson Unit	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	1
Aycliffe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barton Moss	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clayfields	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Moor	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Gladstone House	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Hillside	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kyloe House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	4	1	2	0	2	1	2	0	0	2	0
Orchard Lodge	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red Bank	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Sutton Place	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Swanwick Lodge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vinney Green	2	2	2	3	2	2	6	15	1	0	2

[1] Cookham Wood was unoccupied for part of the period.

Note:

Data provided by the YJB. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Young Offender Institutions: Special Educational Needs

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the need for teaching support for teachers in young offender institutions who work with groups of young people with acute special educational needs. [203554]

Mr. Hanson: An audit of education in secure accommodation carried out by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in 2002 identified the need for special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs), and funding was obtained by the YJB to ensure that each young offenders institution has the support of a SENCO. This requirement is incorporated into the Offenders Learning Journey (Juvenile) which sets out the delivery of learning and skills services to young offenders in custody in England. The Learning and Skills Council is also currently undertaking a review process which will ascertain the level and range of educational need for offenders in each custodial and community setting, thus informing the range and types of provision to be commissioned. We expect the reviews to include an analysis of the level of need for learners with learning difficulties and disability. The Welsh Assembly government lead on education provision in the two YOIs in Wales and this is guided by the YJB's National Specification for Learning and Skills which advocates the use of SENCOs.

Young Offenders: Body Searches

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which young offender institutions include strip searching in their routine admission procedures. [203556]

Maria Eagle: All prisons and young offender institutions are currently required to full search (previously known as strip search) prisoners on reception for security reasons, in accordance with the HM Prison Service National Security Framework and Prison Rule 41(1).

Young Offenders: Prison Accommodation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates of young offender institutions were transferred to the secure adult prison estate in each of the last 10 years. [203896]

Mr. Hanson: Data are not held centrally on the numbers of 21-year-olds who are transferred from young offender institutions into the secure adult prison estate. Offenders who reach their 21st birthdays towards the end of their sentences normally remain in the young adult estate. Those who have a substantial time still to serve are normally transferred to the secure adult estate soon after reaching 21. Careful guidelines are observed on the management of such transfers.

In exceptional and rare circumstances, an 18 to 21-year-old sentenced offender can be held in an adult prison as an adult on an individual basis (under section 43(2)(c) of the Prison Act 1952) and is managed by local establishment management, where appropriate the offender manager and only when agreed by the Prison Service Area Manager.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of young offenders whose final custodial establishment was a secure children's home were reconvicted within two years of release in each of the last five years. [203895]

Mr. Hanson: Secure children's homes are generally used to house offenders aged between 12 and 16. Juvenile re-offending is calculated over a one-year follow-up period and covers those aged 10 to 17 who were discharged from custody, as well as those commencing pre-court and non-custodial court disposals. A release from custody could be from a secure training centre, a secure children's home or a young offender institution, with most releases being from young offender institutions. Data are not broken down by type of release establishment. The following table shows the number and proportion of juvenile offenders who re-offended within one year of release from custody for the 2000, 2004 and 2005 cohorts. Data for the 2002 and 2003 cohorts are not available.

Cohort	*Number of offenders in cohort*	*Number in cohort re-offending*	*Proportion of cohort offending (percentage)*
2000	979	764	78
2004	843	659	78
2005	865	659	76

Data for the 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 juvenile cohorts on the frequency and severity of juvenile re-offending are due to be published on 9 May 2008 online at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

Young Offenders: Self-mutilation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many instances of prisoner self-harm were recorded in *(a)* secure training centres, *(b)* secure children's homes and *(c)* young offender institutions in each year since 2000, broken down by establishment; and if he will make a statement. [204315]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out the number of recorded self-harm incidents that occurred in under-18 custodial establishments between 1 April 2007 and 29 February 2008. The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

The Youth Justice Board has been collecting data across the secure estate for children and young people against common definitions of self-harm from April 2007. Comparative data are not available for earlier periods.

	2007									*2008*	
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*
Secure children's homes											
Aldine House	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

	2007									2008	
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Atkinson Unit	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Aycliffe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barton Moss	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clayfields	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Moor	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gladstone Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillside	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Kyloe House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Orchard Lodge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Redbank	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sutton Place	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Swanwick Lodge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vinney Green	1	0	0	1	1	2	7	2	0	0	1
Secure training centres											
Hassockfield	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2
Medway	13	6	7	7	8	4	1	6	2	1	0
Oakhill	13	26	16	10	35	15	24	7	8	0	0
Rainsbrook	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Young offender institutions											
Ashfield	2	3	6	9	3	4	1	5	6	0	0
Brinsford	9	9	1	3	3	1	2	2	3	1	1
Castington	1	1	0	3	2	0	2	0	3	1	2
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downview	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Eastwood Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feltham	16	16	16	7	4	8	1	11	0	3	10
Foston Hall	0	0	14	5	13	18	8	0	4	6	5
Hindley	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Huntercombe	0	8	0	3	3	0	11	6	0	0	0
Lancaster Farms	0	10	6	18	5	1	3	1	1	0	1
New Hall	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Parc	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Stoke Heath	0	1	1	5	2	0	2	1	4	3	1
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren Hill	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	0
Werrington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

Note:
Data provided by the YJB. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time

Young Offenders: Wales

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that all young people resident in Wales *(a)* serving long custodial sentences and *(b)* with mental health needs serve their sentences in prisons in Wales. [203584]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is responsible for deciding where young people who have been sentenced to custody should be accommodated. In making those decisions, its placement team takes account of a range of factors including age, sex, risk factors (including health issues) and where the young person lives. The Government and the YJB believe that young people in custody should be placed in the accommodation most suited to their needs.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at which NHS institutions abortions were conducted at *(a)* 16 weeks, *(b)* 17 weeks, *(c)* 18 weeks, *(d)* 19 weeks, *(e)* 20 weeks, *(f)* 21 weeks, *(g)* 22 weeks, *(h)* 23 weeks and *(i)* 24 weeks period of gestation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [203977]

Dawn Primarolo: Statistics are not published by place of termination but only by residence of the woman. This is in line with the Office for National Statistics guidelines on publication of abortion statistics.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many abortions took place in NHS hospitals at *(a)* 16 weeks, *(b)* 17 weeks, *(c)* 18 weeks, *(d)* 19 weeks, *(e)* 20 weeks, *(f)* 21 weeks, *(g)* 22 weeks, *(h)* 23 weeks and *(i)* 24 weeks period of gestation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [203978]

(2) how many abortions took place in non-NHS hospitals or institutions at *(a)* 16 weeks, *(b)* 17 weeks, *(c)* 18 weeks, *(d)* 19 weeks, *(e)* 20 weeks, *(f)* 21 weeks, *(g)* 22 weeks, *(h)* 23 weeks and *(i)* 24 weeks gestation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [204014]

Dawn Primarolo: The information in the following table shows how many abortions took place at 16-24 weeks gestation that were funded by the national health service and took place on NHS premises; funded by the NHS and took place in the private sector under contract; and were not funded by the NHS.

Abortions by gestation 16-24 weeks and purchaser, residents England and Wales, 1997-2006

	16	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*
2006									
NHS Hospital	569	409	276	175	182	212	152	128	34
NHS Agency	1,264	1,160	953	837	660	490	383	328	0
Private	169	138	128	99	90	52	81	54	0
Total	2,002	1,707	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	34
2005									
NHS Hospital	535	385	202	147	186	211	168	115	38
NHS Agency	1,250	1,069	883	812	644	417	300	175	0
Private	187	185	136	106	95	72	71	46	0
Total	1,972	1,639	1,221	1,065	925	700	539	336	38
2004									
NHS Hospital	598	383	237	174	202	177	141	111	41
NHS Agency	1,251	1,383	1,047	759	542	535	519	300	0
Private	267	232	211	92	70	66	75	52	0
Total	2,116	1,998	1,495	1,025	814	778	735	463	41
2003									
NHS Hospital	572	438	282	217	198	167	137	123	41
NHS Agency	1,235	1,428	1,184	679	524	532	471	324	0
Private	262	274	239	108	61	80	91	83	0
Total	2,069	2,140	1,705	1,004	783	779	699	530	41
2002									
NHS Hospital	672	390	301	207	216	184	144	98	33
NHS Agency	1,178	1,238	886	578	497	438	446	341	0
Private	289	308	234	121	69	108	121	94	0
Total	2,139	1,936	1,421	906	782	730	711	533	33
2001									
NHS Hospital	602	404	251	201	216	160	95	78	24
NHS Agency	1,035	1,096	814	502	391	440	454	308	0
Private	325	319	253	154	133	123	149	125	0
Total	1,962	1,819	1,318	857	740	723	698	511	24
2000									
NHS Hospital	690	408	321	232	237	167	133	102	22
NHS Agency	1,021	898	727	417	338	329	337	248	0
Private	392	345	285	207	135	146	158	125	0
Total	2,103	1,651	1,333	856	710	642	628	475	22
1999									
NHS Hospital	697	364	305	281	252	161	117	100	25
NHS Agency	850	822	662	396	310	278	286	239	0
Private	410	383	318	210	160	152	181	140	0
Total	1,957	1,569	1,285	887	722	591	584	479	25
1998									
NHS Hospital	677	359	348	253	266	146	121	85	11
NHS Agency	880	887	643	375	288	284	237	195	0
Private	434	424	337	204	141	139	161	151	0
Total	1,991	1,670	1,328	832	695	589	519	431	11
1997									
NHS Hospital	640	397	308	259	249	170	116	71	24
NHS Agency	781	757	575	320	183	227	210	160	0
Private	496	456	303	258	146	156	187	144	0
Total	1,917	1,610	1,186	837	578	553	513	375	24

[1] Includes 24 weeks and 0 days.

Abortion: Young People

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls in England and Wales, aged *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14 and *(d)* 15 years of age had (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four or more abortions in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [203545]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is shown in the following table.

Number of repeat abortions by age under 16, England and Wales

	12	13	14	15
2004				
1	[1]	[1]	21	90
2	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
3	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
4 or more	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
2005				
1	[1]	[1]	27	86
2	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
3	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
4 or more	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
2006				
1	[1]	[1]	17	110
2	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
3	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
4 or more	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]

[1] Suppressed value less than 10 (between 0 to nine).

Accident and Emergency Departments: Standards

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of accident and emergency department admissions *(a)* in England and *(b)* at Gloucestershire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust were seen, treated and discharged or admitted within target times set in the most recent period for which figures are available; what the (i) average and (ii) longest waiting time for emergency treatment was in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [204030]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the proportion of patients attending accident and emergency (A and E) departments who were seen, diagnosed and treated within four hours of their arrival is collected at the level of national health service trusts and published quarterly via the Department's QMAE dataset. This can be compared against the operational standard for A and E waits, which is set at 98 per cent. of patients within four hours.

For the period October to December 2007 (quarter three 2007-08), performance was at 97.3 per cent. for England and 97.2 per cent. for Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS

Foundation Trust (all types of A and E department).

The remaining information requested is not currently available centrally.

AIDS

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59, *(d)* 60 to 69, *(e)* 70 to 79 and *(f)* 80 years and over were diagnosed with AIDS in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [202748]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table.

First AIDS diagnosis within the United Kingdom by strategic health authority (SHA), 2003-07

Age of diagnosis	Year of diagnosis	East midlands	East of England	London	North-east	North-west
	2003	18	35	168	8	26
	2004	19	33	120	6	38
30-39	2005	26	34	105	6	31
	2006	21	32	102	6	26
	2007	12	15	46	6	24
	2003	11	14	79	13	19
	2004	16	15	78	8	22
40-49	2005	9	24	76	<5	13
	2006	17	16	71	9	23
	2007	<5	11	50	5	23
	2003	5	5	24	<5	13
	2004	<5	6	29	<5	15
50-59	2005	5	9	24	<5	9
	2006	<5	5	15	<5	6
	2007	<5	<5	14	<5	15
	2003	<5	5	9	0	<5
	2004	<5	<5	9	0	<5
60-69	2005	<5	<5	11	<5	7
	2006	0	<5	11	0	<5
	2007	<5	6	5	0	<5
	2003	0	<5	<5	0	0
	2004	0	0	<5	0	0

First AIDS diagnosis within the United Kingdom by strategic health authority (SHA), 2003-07

Age of diagnosis	Year of diagnosis	East midlands	East of England	London	North-east	North-west
70-79	2005	0	0	<5	<5	<5
	2006	0	0	<5	0	0
	2007	0	0	<5	0	0
	2003	0	0	<5	0	0
	2004	0	0	0	0	0
80+	2005	0	0	0	0	0
	2006	0	0	0	0	0
	2007	<5	0	0	0	0

Age of diagnosis	Year of diagnosis	South central	South-east coast	South-west	West midlands	Yorkshire and the Humber
	2003	35	40	16	22	31
	2004	30	30	11	22	31
30-39	2005	24	30	10	13	26
	2006	17	19	13	11	31
	2007	5	12	6	<5	16
	2003	10	17	9	13	9
	2004	10	24	<5	11	19
40-49	2005	10	14	11	8	8
	2006	14	21	6	<5	17
	2007	8	18	12	7	11
	2003	<5	8	<5	<5	<5
	2004	10	8	6	<5	5
50-59	2005	<5	8	6	<5	<5
	2006	<5	8	5	<5	8
	2007	5	11	<5	<5	5
	2003	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
	2004	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
60-69	2005	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
	2006	0	<5	<5	0	0
	2007	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
	2003	0	0	0	<5	0
	2004	0	<5	0	<5	0
70-79	2005	0	0	<5	0	0
	2006	<5	<5	0	<5	<5
	2007	0	0	0	<5	0
	2003	0	0	0	0	0
	2004	0	0	0	0	0
80+	2005	0	<5	0	0	0
	2006	0	0	0	0	0
	2007	0	0	0	0	0

Notes:
1. Data are from a UK wide dataset and represent first AIDS diagnoses in the UK within English SHAs. Data are cumulative data to the end of December 2007. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
2. Cell counts under five are masked by replacing the number with <5 to protect against deductive disclosure of an individual patient's identity.
3. SHAs are those of diagnosis and not of residence. There is evidence that a large proportion of individuals are diagnosed outside of their SHA of residence.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that the recommendations for research into myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome in the new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines are met, with particular reference to the *(a)* causes of the illness, *(b)* effectiveness of intervention strategies and *(c)* efficient ways to deliver domiciliary care for people who are severely affected. [203962]

Dawn Primarolo: Research recommendations made in National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines are considered on behalf of the Department by the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment programme (HTA). The director of the HTA programme meets annually with NICE for this purpose. The next of these joint meetings will be held in September.

Chronically Sick: Heywood

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets in the National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions in Heywood and Middleton constituency. [202916]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the "National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions". The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs. Copies of the NSF is available in the Library.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care has been fully implemented in Heywood and Middleton constituency. [202917]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the North West SHA.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS beds were available for patients sectioned under mental health legislation in each of the last five years. [204084]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service beds are not strictly allocated for patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 or other mental health legislation. A person detained under mental health legislation will be allocated an available mental health bed, in a suitable facility.

Data about the availability of mental health beds is shown in the following table.

The year on year reduction in mental health bed numbers reflects the increasing provision by the national health service in England of treatment for patients with mental health conditions in primary care and community settings, without the need for hospital admissions.

	Average daily number of beds available for acute mental health services in the NHS in England
2002-03	32,753
2003-04	32,252
2004-05	31,286
2005-06	29,802
2006-07	27,914

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were sectioned under mental health legislation in each of the last five years. [204085]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about the number of patients detained in England under the Mental Health Act 1983 (and related legislation) between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2007 is shown in the following table:

Total detentions in NHS and independent hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, 2002-03 to 2006-07 (excluding detentions in places of safety): England

	Number of detentions
2002-03	46,489
2003-04	45,691
2004-05	46,673
2005-06	47,394
2006-07	48,083

Note:
The table represents the total number of detentions for the period requested not necessarily the number of patients. It is possible that a patient could be detained on more than one occasion over a twelve month period.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care: bulletins on in-patients formally detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people absconded from secure NHS units in each of the last five years. [204086]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not routinely collect data on absconsions from national health service low or medium secure mental health services. Data are collected by the Department on absconsions from high secure mental health hospitals and the five most recent years' data are shown in the following table.

Absconsions from NHS high secure units in England, 2003 to 2007

	Rampton	*Broadmoor*	*Ashworth*	*Total*
2003	1	0	0	1
2004	0	1	0	1
2005	0	0	1	1
2006	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0

Source:
Department of Health Secure Services

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of units of dental activity (UDA) in England expected to be the subject of a reclaim of UDA payments from activity in 2007 in 2008. [203515]

Ann Keen: This information is not available. For dental activity reporting purposes the year 2007-08 has not yet ended. Dental providers have until the end of May to submit all their activity reports for activity delivered during 2007-08.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent civil service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199553]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The cost of salaries and payments split by months is available only at disproportionate cost.

The total annual figures for those entities within the Accounting Boundary of Ministry of Justice for 2006-07, and a provisional figure for 2007-08 which is subject to audit, are set out in the following table.

Figures cannot readily be disaggregated between civil servants and non-civil servants.

Wages and salaries

£ million

	Permanently employed	*Temporary/ agency*	*Total*
2006-07	2,342	132	2,474
2007-08	2,443	133	2,576

Notes:
1. Figures for 2005-06 are not readily available for an aggregated MoJ. The figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 assume the MoJ was in existence for both years, whereas it actually came into existence on 9 May 2007.
2. Figures include wages and salaries only. No employer social security costs or employer's pension costs are included.
3. Judges, both salaried and fee-paid, are excluded, due to their independent status.
4. The annual figures are for bodies within the Accounting Boundary of MoJ and do not include non departmental public bodies sponsored by MoJ.
5. The Accounting Boundary of the Ministry of Justice includes: HM Court Service, Tribunals Service, Office of Public Guardianship, Wales Office, Scotland Office, National Probation Service, HM Prison Service and MoJ HQ.
6. Figures for 2007-08 are provisional, and subject to audit.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the Government has made of the effect of the implementation of the Food Supplements Regulations on the planting, development and import of genetically-modified material. [203512]

Dawn Primarolo: No assessment has been made of the effect of the Food Supplements Regulations on the planting, development and import of genetically modified material in the United Kingdom. The Food Supplements Regulations do not contain provisions for genetically modified material. Separate European Community legislation provide measures for the authorisation, cultivation and import of genetically modified organisms.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of junior doctors required to ensure that no junior doctor works more than 48 hours per week by August 2009; and how many junior doctors were working in the NHS at the latest date for which figures are available. [203440]

Ann Keen: It is for national health service trusts to implement the European working time directive (EWTD) as part of their health and safety obligations. The Department has commissioned NHS National Workforce Projects to support local implementation of the EWTD for doctors in training through a range of innovative pilot projects and supporting tools. These solutions do not rely on lots more doctors in training and the NHS has already increased the number of trainee doctors by more than half since 1997.

There were 16,024 junior doctors working in the NHS as of 30 September 2007.

Trans Fats: Restaurants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of banning trans fats in restaurants; what representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [203833]

Dawn Primarolo: In October 2007 the Food Standards Agency (FSA) was asked to review the health impacts of trans fats and potential for action in light of the measures taken in New York and Denmark. As part of this review, the FSA sought the advice of the United Kingdom's independent Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, which examined the most recent evidence on the health implications of trans fats. The FSA recommended that mandatory restrictions on trans fats were unnecessary as voluntary measures undertaken by the industry, including the restaurant sector, had reduced average population intakes of trans fats to very low levels that are around half the maximum recommended average intake.

General Practitioners

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP surgeries there were in each local authority in England in each year since 1996-97. [202888]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect data on number of general practitioner (GP) surgeries by local authority area. However, data is available on number of GP practices (partnerships)—some of which operate from more than one surgery—broken down by national health service organisation.

Health authorities from 1997 to 2000;

Primary care groups in 2001; and

Primary care trusts from 2002 onwards (which were reconfigured in 2006).

Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the maximum distance is which people should expect to have to travel to a GP surgery. [203387]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not specify maximum distances which people should expect to have to travel to a general practitioner's (GP's) surgery. Patients can seek to register with any GP practice that is taking new patient registrations. Arrangements exist locally between practices and primary care trusts (PCTs) setting out practice boundaries. PCTs are responsible for commissioning local primary care services in accordance with the needs of their local population, including ensuring appropriate access for patients to GP services.

General Practitioners: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs his Department estimates will be working in the NHS in *(a)* April 2009 and *(b)* April 2010; and how many NHS GPs there were at the latest date for which figures are available. [203398]

Ann Keen: At 30 September 2007 there were 33,364 general practitioners (GPs) (excluding GP retainers, GP registrars and locums) in the national health service, an increase of 273 (0.8 per cent.) from 2006.

It is for primary care trusts (PCTs), working locally, to determine the precise workforce requirements for services. More GPs will be needed for the new GP-led health centres and for the new practices in deprived areas. PCTs will be procuring through the new GP practices and health centres during 2008-09 up to 900 extra GPs, nurses and health care assistants.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the deep clean of hospitals in England to take place; [203396]

(2) what proportion of hospitals in England were *(a)* deep cleaned throughout, *(b)* deep cleaned on targeted wards only and *(c)* not deep cleaned as part of his Department's recent deep cleaning programme. [203406]

Ann Keen: As set out in the written ministerial statement given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 93-94WS, deep cleaning is part of a comprehensive range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle infections set out in the Strategy "Clean, Safe Care: Reducing Infections and Saving Lives". Copies of the strategy are available in the Library.

The national health service will maintain the high standards of cleanliness that the current programme has provided. This will be monitored and performance managed at a local level. Deep cleaning will be included in Patient Environment Action Team inspection programme from next year. Specialist Healthcare Commission inspections began this month, inspecting against the "Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections". Copies of this publication are available in the Library. All acute trusts will be inspected annually on the cleanliness of their environment. We will also publish best practice guidance on deep cleaning later this year to help hospitals continue to achieve the best possible environment for patient care.

Information on trusts which had completed the deep cleans as part of the national programme is detailed in the written ministerial statement of 21 April 2008. Details of each trust's cleaning plan are not held centrally as this is a matter for local discretion. Each strategic health authority was responsible for ensuring that appropriate deep cleaning programmes (that complemented existing cleaning regimes) were agreed in their areas and also that the plans were funded appropriately by commissioners.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers in his Department first knew that the NHS quarterly statistics for inpatient and outpatient waiting times did not meet each of the six statistical criteria. [202770]

Mr. Bradshaw: On 10 March 2008 I received briefing from departmental officials on the findings of the Statistics Commission report entitled 'Review of Statistical First Releases'. This report was published on 13 March 2008 and copies are available in the Library.

The report included analysis of a release entitled NHS inpatient and outpatient waiting times figures, events during the quarter ending 30 June 2007 which was published on 31 August 2007.

In order to provide as much information as possible and accord with best practice, from 1 April 2008, all of the Department's National Statistics, including monthly inpatient and outpatient waiting times, are being released in accordance with arrangements approved by the new UK Statistics Authority.

Monthly inpatient and outpatient waiting statistics, in addition to our newer referral to treatment waiting statistics, continue to be accompanied by neutral statistical commentary.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation his Department had with interested parties to inform the drafting of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill in 2007; and what form such consultation took in each case. [203447]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government announced a review of the law on assisted reproduction and embryo research in January 2004, and in drafting the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill 2007, have taken account of the views of a wide range of interested parties. Following an inquiry and evidence gathering by the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee into human reproductive technologies and the law, the Department launched a public consultation exercise which ran from 16 August to 25 November 2005. A total of 535 responses were received from a wide range of stakeholders organisations and members of the public. A White Paper setting out the Government's policy proposals was published in December 2006, followed by publication of draft legislation for pre-legislative scrutiny by a Joint

Committee of both Houses in May 2007. Revised in the light of the Joint Committee's report, the Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on 8 November 2007.

Human Umbilical Cord Blood Cells

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms of reference are of the umbilical cord blood review being undertaken by his Department; and which organisations and individuals have accepted invitations to the review meeting on 28 May 2008. [202390]

Dawn Primarolo: The proposed review will assess the following:

current policies, practices, spending and service provision for the collection, storage and use of placental or umbilical cord blood stem cells in the national health service and/or private sector in the United Kingdom; and

current policies, practices, spending and service provision for the collection, storage and use of placental or umbilical cord blood stem cells in the United States, Canada, Japan, France and China.

The review, to be carried out by Technopolis Ltd, will prepare an initial report on the current use of stem cells collected at birth. This will be presented to an expert workshop on 28 May 2008.

Those invited to the workshop include representatives from Government Departments, regulatory agencies, research councils, public and private blood banks and the Royal Colleges. Two international cord blood research experts, Professor Colin McGuckin from Newcastle university and Albert Bekassy from Lund university Sweden, have also agreed to attend.

Replies are still being received but, so far, 19 representatives from the organisations have agreed to attend.

Keep Warm, Keep Well

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been of the *(a)* publication and *(b)* distribution of his Department's Keep Warm, Keep Well information booklet; when the booklets were first made available for distribution in 2007; what assessment he has made of the efficacy of the distribution of the booklets; which agencies were involved in the distribution to doctors' surgeries of the booklets; and if he will make a statement. [202243]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department recognises the importance of fuel poverty and its impact upon excess winter mortality, health and well-being. The Department works in partnership with other Government Departments and works in close collaboration with Warm Front to increase health sector referral rates for winter warmth interventions. The Keep Well, Keep Warm, campaign is a key aspect of the Department's commitment to address fuel poverty and promote winter warmth.

The Keep Warm, Keep Well booklet, was made available from September 2007, to allow people to prepare for the colder weather. It was produced in a number of different formats including non-English language versions, braille, audio, large print and an accessible version for people with learning disabilities. The booklet was available in a variety of outlets, including general practitioners (GP) surgeries. All GP surgeries in England were sent a letter inviting them to order copies of the booklet from the DH Publications Orderline, which is managed by Professional Logistics Ltd. In addition, the booklet was distributed to 5,103 GP surgeries via the Waiting Room Information Service.

The total cost of publishing the booklet was £199,443 and the total cost of distribution was £197,498. As well as making the booklet available via national health service outlets, voluntary and commercial partners distributed the booklet for free.

Research to measure awareness of how to keep warm and well in winter and the help available was carried out in January. This included some evaluation of the booklet in terms of whether the target audience had seen a copy, but did not assess the efficacy of the distribution methods used.

Medical Equipment: Irradiation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consideration his Department has given to the use of ultra-violet germicidal irradiation disinfection devices in the healthcare sector; [202442]

(2) whether his Department has investigated the use of ultra-violet germicidal irradiation technology in combating tuberculosis infection; [202443]

(3) what plans his Department has to commission research into the effects and merits of ultra-violet germicidal irradiation technology; what assessment has been made of *(a)* the costs and *(b)* the merits of introducing such technology; and if he will make a statement. [202444]

Dawn Primarolo: The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) has reviewed 28 technologies which utilise ultra-violet light. All of these technologies are air purification systems. From these 28 products:

two were awarded a recommendation 2 (basic research and development has been completed and the product may have potential value; in use evaluations/trials are now needed in an national health service clinical setting);

10 received a recommendation 3 (a potentially useful new concept but insufficiently validated; more research and development is required before it is ready for evaluation in practice);

seven received a recommendation 4 (not a significant improvement on equipment/materials/products already available which claim to contribute to reducing health care associated infection; no further consideration needed, or unlikely to contribute to the reduction of health care associated infection; no further consideration needed);

eight received a recommendation 5(insufficient clarity/ evidence presented to enable full review of the product); and

one received a recommendation 6 (an already well established product that does not merit further consideration by the panel).

Further information can be found on the RRP's website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/rapid_review/default.htm

Unless a technology is awarded a recommendation 1 from the RRP and considered to be clinically effective, the Department does not undertake assessments of cost effectiveness or, of the benefits involved in introducing such technology.

Research has shown that ultra-violet disinfection can be valuable in certain circumstances to reduce airborne bacteria.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for deciding that *(a)* individuals may not opt out of having their demographic data placed on the Spine and *(b)* not having demographic data on the Spine will prevent individuals accessing NHS treatment; and whether he informed the Health Committee during their recent review of the NHS patient record that individuals would not be able to opt out of having their demographic details on the Spine. [202328]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1990W. The relevant information in that answer reflects information provided in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Department's written evidence to the Health Select Committee, published by the Committee on 25 April 2007.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is undertaking the independent evaluation of the electronic patient records pilot; what their terms of reference are; and when the report will be published. [202380]

Mr. Bradshaw: The independent evaluation of the Summary Care Record (SCR) Early Adopters Programme is being carried out by a team from the Department of Primary Care and Population Sciences at University College London, led by Professor Trisha Greenhalgh.

The agreed aims of the evaluation are to assess usability, usage, functionality and impact of the SCR in early adopter sites, and place this in context; to set the stage for the inclusion of further sites and further data sources; to provide timely feedback to stakeholders; and to contribute to the evaluation culture within NHS Connecting for Health and the National Programme for IT.

The report was published by the evaluation team on 6 May and is available via the University College website at:

www.pcps.ucl.ac.uk/pcpsweb/openlearning/documents/scrie2008.pdf.

and the website of the NHS Connecting for Health Evaluation Programme, which is based at the University of Birmingham, at:

www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/cfhep/.

Mental Health Services: Children

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places were available to those seeking to work in child and adolescent mental health services in each year between 1999 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [203590]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected centrally in the format requested.

Mental Health Services: Prisoners

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of prisoners received treatment for mental illness in the last five years for which figures are available. [204175]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Mental health services for prisoners have been a key part of the Government's recent reforms of health services for prisoners. The Department is now investing £20 million a year in national health service mental health in-reach services for prisoners. These are community mental health teams working within prisons and are now available in 102 prisons, with some 360 extra staff employed. Every prison in England and Wales has access to these services. Information on how many prisoners receive these services is not collected centrally.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health professionals entered further training for child and adolescent mental health services in each year between 1999 and 2007. [202726]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected centrally in the format requested. Between 2002 and 2006 (the first and latest dates for which data are available) the number of whole time equivalent staff working in specialist children and adolescent mental health service teams in England increased from 7,321 to 9,705, an increase of 33 per cent.

Source:

A profile of child health, child and adolescent mental health and maternity services in England in 2007.

NHS: Freedom of Information

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department monitors freedom of information *(a)* requests to and *(b)* responses from individual NHS trusts; and whether trusts are required to report to his Department freedom of information requests which they receive. [202844]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not monitor freedom of information requests or responses from individual national health service trusts, nor does it require trusts to report freedom of information requests which they receive.

NHS trusts are public authorities in their own right, as designated in schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. They are therefore individually responsible for freedom of information requests which they receive.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what qualifications and criteria were applied to *(a)* the selection of individuals to serve on the (i) strategy group, (ii) project executive group, (iii) national reference group and (iv) psychodynamic psychotherapy

group within the Skills for Health Psychological Therapies National Occupation Skills Project and *(b)* the National Occupational Skills (A) development consultants and (B) research consultants. [203076]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

This project is being managed by the sector skills council Skills for Health, under the overall programme to develop national occupational standards. I am asking the chief executive of Skills for Health to write to the hon. Member about this matter.

NHS: Procurement

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the terms of reference of the joint Office of Government Commerce and NHS Purchasing supply review is; when the review is expected to be complete; and if he will make a statement; [204131]

(2) what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the recent Strategic Review of Collaborative Procurement in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [204132]

Mr. Bradshaw: The programme of Procurement Capability (PCR) Reviews was announced in HM Treasury's publication "Transforming Government Procurement" in January 2007. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) was tasked with carrying out these reviews and the Department's review began on 10 March 2008.

The scope of the review is to assess:

the Department's own capability in respect of procurement; and

the leadership, systems and support it has in place to promote and develop high standards of procurement in the national health service—and in respect of social care provision.

The review will be completed with publication of a report by the OGC in November 2008.

The Strategic Review of Collaborative Procurement in the NHS is not yet complete. Consequently, no assessment has been made of the outcomes of the review at this stage although it will be taken into account in the Department's response to the PCR recommendations.

Palliative Care: Heywood

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine the need for specialised palliative and neurological care in Heywood and Middleton constituency. [202914]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The "NHS operating framework for 2007-08" asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. Copies of the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" are available in the Library.

Pharmacy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the contribution independent pharmacies make to the provision of access to primary health care; and if he will make a statement;. [203576]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of polyclinics on independent pharmacies. [203616]

Dawn Primarolo: As at 31 March 2007, of nearly 11,000 pharmacies in England and Wales, 41 per cent. were classified as independent, which we define as those in chains of five or fewer outlets. They as well as other community pharmacies are well placed to play an important part in improving access to primary health care. Our White Paper "Pharmacy in England—Building on strengths, delivering the future" published last month sets out a comprehensive development programme for them to provide an extended range of quality clinical services. These include help for a range of minor ailments, offering screening services and providing support for people newly prescribed medicines for a long-term condition.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are currently talking to local stakeholders, including patients and clinicians, to consider how new general practitioner-led health centre services are best provided to meet local needs and the effect they may have on existing provision. PCTs will continue to ensure there are adequate arrangements in place for patients to access pharmaceutical services.

Psychiatric Nurses: Training

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made in the training of psychiatric nurses for the recognition and understanding of the mental health needs of those aged under 25 years. [203699]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is currently no specific education or training route in to specialist children and adolescent mental health services.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council set out the curriculum for pre registration training and standards for registration as a general mental health nurse. Local health trusts arrange post registration training and development with their higher education providers.

We do share a commitment with these bodies that all health professionals are trained, so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high quality health service to all groups of the population with whom they deal.

Psychiatry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons humanistic traditions are not accepted as a standard psychotherapy modality under his Department's Skills for Health project; and if he will make a statement. [202938]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

This project is being managed by the Sector Skills Council Skills for Hearth, under the overall programme to develop national occupational standards. I am asking the chief executive of Skills for Health to write to the hon. Member about this matter.

Smoking

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has collated the number of cases of illnesses caused by the effects of passive smoking since the implementation of the smoking ban in 2007. [203807]

Dawn Primarolo: We have commissioned research on the health impacts of smokefree legislation in England. However, early assessments are that this legislation is proving to be effective in significantly reducing levels of second hand smoke in enclosed public places and workplaces.

Research from Scotland has reported a range of benefits since smokefree legislation was introduced there, including dramatic improvements in air quality in pubs, improved health, reduced tobacco consumption and no increase in the amount of smoking in the home.

Social Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 154-61W, on social services, what outcomes of assessments for social care needs are included in his Department's definition of other sequel. [204134]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The definition of 'other sequel' relates to individuals who complete the assessment process but then leave the local authority area, go into hospital or die before a service can be delivered.

South Staffordshire PCT: Finance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's methodology for distributing revenue funding to primary care trusts on the funding available to South Staffordshire PCT in each of the last three years;. [201330]

(2) if he will increase the proportion of his Department's revenue funding to primary care trusts payable to South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust from 2009-10 onwards. [201331]

Ann Keen: Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine PCTs' target shares of available resources, to enable them to commission similar levels of health care for populations with similar needs.

South Staffordshire PCT received allocations of £653.7 million in 2006-07 and £716.1 million in 2007-08. These represent a cash increase of £116.5 million or 19.4 per cent. over the two years. All PCTs received an above inflation cash increase of 5.5 per cent. in their 2008-09 allocations. South Staffordshire PCT received £755.3 million, a cash increase of £39.1 million in 2008-09.

The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) continuously oversees the development of the weighted capitation formula. ACRA is an independent body, made up of NHS managers, academics and GPs.

As part of its work programme to support revenue allocations to PCTs post 2008-09, ACRA has reviewed the main elements of the formula. This work will inform ACRA's final recommendations to Ministers on potential changes to the funding formula. Ministers plan to make the allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 by summer this year based on a new formula. PCTs will be informed of the changes to the formula following the allocations announcement.

Strokes: Health Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure the NHS provides effective care to people in the first hours following a stroke. [204025]

Ann Keen: The National Stroke Strategy published in December 2007 sets a clear standard to ensure that effective urgent care is in place, including transfer to an acute stroke centre that provides access to scans, thrombolysis where appropriate, and prompt admission to a specialist stroke unit. In addition to the funding that has gone to primary care trusts, £105 million of central funding over three years will support implementation, including to support change in acute and community services, and to raise public awareness. Copies of the strategy are available in the Library.

In the "NHS Operating Framework 2008-09", and accompanying "vital signs", stroke is one of the national requirements; all hospitals are expected to improve their performance in treating people with stroke. Copies of these publications are available in the Library.

We have also set up, as part of the Stroke Improvement Programme, a central team to support the development of local stroke care networks. We are asking all local stroke networks to work together to ensure that these services are provided.

Surgery

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations have been cancelled in each of the last five years, broken down by trust. [203081]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department collects information on the number of operations cancelled at the last minute for non-clinical reasons. Data for 2002-03 to 2007-08 (quarter 1-quarter 3) are shown in the following table.

The Government's cancelled operations policy introduced in April 2002 provides an incentive for hospitals to avoid cancellations by giving patients the right to move to the hospital of their choice if they are not treated within 28 days. Since this came into force the number of patients cancelled at the last minute, has fallen from 1.5 per cent. to 1.0 per cent. of elective activity.

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in England, 2002-03 to 2007-08

		Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons					
OrgID	*Name*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 Q1 to Q3*
	England	67,254	66,303	68,569	60,803	52,005	40,579
REM	Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust	326	295	306	273	246	179
RCF	Airedale NHS Trust	94	105	105	96	132	76
RTK	Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	137	301	419	432	426	337
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	2,168	2,147	2,436	1,566	906	424
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	1,346	404	399	279	294	179
RFF	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	143	88	148	138	171	210
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	928	593	502	506	531	298
RDD	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	212	266	296	278	169	200
RC1	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	132	180	201	190	208	170
RQ3	Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust	202	229	330	309	234	164
RLU	Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust	21	34	24	43	48	43
RMB	Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Health Care NHS Trust	340	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RXL	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	671	763	576	428	279	285
RMC	Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	134	187	244	319	238	233
RAE	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	320	432	447	530	439	267
RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	1,062	912	578	440	255	189
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	324	425	289	214	181	143
RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	382	375	442	325	238
REU	Burnley Health Care NHS Trust	333	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5DQ	Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT	5	16	0	14	0	n/a
RJF	Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	260	246	247	249	126	108
RWY	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	153	295	386	362	374	153
RGT	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	645	769	1,090	507	460	339
RW3	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	547	748	968	1,062	1,149	800
5JC	Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT	8	6	32	21	43	n/a
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	185	151	180	115	103	76
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	188	191	233	213	152	141
RBV	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	18	43	16	6	8	7
RLN	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	348	252	208	227	328	249
RJR	Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	308	216	206	247	228	215
RXP	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	0	483	474	488	423	324
RN7	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	201	100	92	102	99	79
RTG	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	259	411	348	281	199	83
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	10
RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	480	583	482	398	355	305
5QM	Dorset PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	4

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in England, 2002-03 to 2007-08

		Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons					
OrgID	*Name*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 Q1 to Q3*
RNA	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	204	241	226	321	329	301
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	267	206	140	142	124	160
RWH	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	266	557	505	856	682	579
RJN	East Cheshire NHS Trust	166	133	115	97	90	97
RVV	East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	663	438	269	299	282	203
RXR	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	0	657	589	469	335	347
RA4	East Somerset NHS Trust	146	100	224	87	66	86
RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	302	375	632	491	141	130
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	353	698	608	281	270	347
5ER	Erewash PCT	4	11	7	9	3	n/a
RDE	Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	741	815	800	439	172	222
RDU	Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	297	149	310	177	183	183
RR7	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	141	158	189	144	87	72
RLT	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	146	160	196	184	178	162
RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	555	440	468	434	361	343
RJH	Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust	781	761	465	565	581	n/a
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	290	143	119	146	115	87
RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	554	450	739	884	866	675
RQN	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	504	390	688	625	614	n/a
5QC	Hampshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	8
RCD	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	36	23	55	107	46	57
RR1	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	290	417	197	249	160	409
RD7	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	374	548	520	509	416	338
RLQ	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	401	168	388	255	247	187
RQQ	Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	179	180	168	138	133	109
5JA	Hinckley and Bosworth PCT	21	21	10	48	4	0
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	52	68	24	45	50	75
RWA	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	877	867	1,045	825	788	729
RYJ	Imperial College NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	589
RGQ	Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	417	488	533	384	355	238
5CW	Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust	31	172	167	123	77	n/a
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	52	112
RGP	James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	176	258	267	226	140	135
RNQ	Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	478	494	454	327	177	137
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	318	180	227	209	153	113
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	140	223	168	182	116	139
RXN	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	389	440	406	460	504	356
RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	942	783	1,019	1,349	938	851
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	72	48
REP	Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	89	51	46	57	35	23
RC9	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	208	171	169	173	186	94
RWF	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	402	522	551	931	1,194	596
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	549	678	226	129	50	21
RPA	Medway NHS Trust	111	148	140	149	74	87
5EH	Melton, Rutland and Harborough PCT	6	0	17	35	25	n/a
RQ8	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	419	470	447	370	257	359

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in England, 2002-03 to 2007-08

		Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons					
OrgID	*Name*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 Q1 to Q3*
RJD	Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	596	331	241	235	353	401
RXF	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1,408	1,322	1,405	1,095	756	624
RD8	Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	423	285	295	270	231	167
RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	74	74	62	292	151	233
RTX	Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust	400	388	309	462	358	244
5A1	New Forest PCT	17	7	20	8	10	n/a
5DK	Newbury and Community PCT	14	39	37	9	n/a	n/a
RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	226	156	118	79	146	108
RM1	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	662	569	492	327	332	241
RVJ	North Bristol NHS Trust	462	1,413	1,748	1,406	705	542
RWW	North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	278	364	838	503	247	216
RNL	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	848	335	427	538	647	357
5CD	North Dorset PCT	11	4	12	3	n/a	n/a
RR9	North Durham Health Care NHS Trust	259	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RN5	North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	97	133	148	104	71	55
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	152	111	106	66	68	57
RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	215	270	288	274	286	248
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	617	433	542	480	457	255
RNS	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	1,397	903	1,000	780	888	557
RBZ	Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	95	97	168	163	119	61
RJL	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	270	427	457	449	398	283
RTF	Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust	132	123	133	211	133	128
RCS	Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust	778	406	320	378	n/a	n/a
RX1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,181	868
RBF	Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	130	142	174	118	74	48
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	1,411	847	992	1,131	896	476
RGM	Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	185	166	159	154	167	137
RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1,228	1,393	1,404	1,170	1,123	931
RGN	Peterborough and Stamford NHS Foundation Trust	253	187	270	298	262	236
RK9	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	1,001	1,061	1,143	969	745	931
RD3	Poole Hospital NHS Trust	726	419	255	146	146	97
RHU	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	466	368	289	333	328	245
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	171	87	46	45	58	56
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	199	75	91	52	78	104
RPC	Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	78	41	62	47	31	34
RX1	Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust	408	664	614	543	n/a	n/a
RL1	Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust	35	49	67	62	91	93
RHW	Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	288	216	141	63	118	65
RDZ	Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	241	299	243	205	121	86
RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	244	190	183	233	177	203

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in England, 2002-03 to 2007-08

Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons

Org ID	*Name*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 Q1 to Q3*
REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	501	387	303	311	274	210
RH8	Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	735	445	372	491	499	378
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	341	285	306	460	268	162
RQ6	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	487	462	356	405	399	278
RBS	Royal Liverpool Childrens NHS Trust	91	66	102	111	83	75
RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	151	154	97	144	167	119
RRJ	Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	38	52	32	33	52	30
RLZ	Royal Shrewsbury Hospitals NHS Trust	298	115	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RA2	Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	225	209	230	208	216	134
RD1	Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	419	482	613	592	397	242
RPR	Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	176	232	176	209	170	81
RM3	Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	429	730	660	371	163	126
RNZ	Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust	519	294	340	470	525	255
RXK	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	859	626	702	706	536	401
RCC	Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	219	302	406	460	265	244
RCU	Sheffield Children's NHS Trust	18	24	62	64	62	75
RHQ	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	594	628	658	753	625	814
RK5	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust	328	269	252	268	242	154
RXW	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	0	249	478	139	73	311
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	0	3	0	4	0	0
5D1	Solihull PCT	0	4	0	0	0	0
5QL	Somerset PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	0
5FN	South and East Dorset PCT	18	9	7	13	3	0
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	0	0	0	14	0	0
RH2	South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust	18	0	0	0	0	n/a
RA9	South Devon Health Care NHS Trust	431	488	352	265	258	204
RTA	South Durham Health Care NHS Trust	160	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RM2	South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust	971	743	725	609	501	326
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	4
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	682	837	480	412	529	341
RE9	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	85	34	29	18	22	47
RJC	South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	146	213	270	139	54	68
5FP	South West Dorset PCT	15	12	9	0	0	n/a
5MT	South Worcestershire PCT	3	23	0	9	17	n/a
RHM	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	713	1,047	889	895	706	621
RAJ	Southend Hospital NHS Trust	509	691	1,007	869	472	321
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	62	61	73	89	137	70
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	354	765	1,065	753	666	418
RBN	St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	171	126	192	159	193	218
RJ5	St. Mary's NHS Trust	97	365	367	303	192	n/a
RWJ	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	187	231	252	237	291	214
RNT	Stoke Mandeville Hospital NHS Trust	583	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RTP	Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	505	407	708	268	272	215

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in England, 2002-03 to 2007-08

		Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons					
OrgID	*Name*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 Q1 to Q3*
5LT	Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	0	4	0	0	0	n/a
RN3	Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	145	178	128	167	89	55
RMP	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	498	103	87	61	38	43
RBA	Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	69	263	395	434	271	181
5AH	Tendring PCT	8	0	0	0	0	n/a
RBQ	The Cardiothoracic Centre—Liverpool NHS Trust	59	161	289	289	128	68
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	360	247	137	150	103	75
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	42	199	187	136	165	134
RBT	The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	428	287	361	284	297	202
RTD	The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	1,014	837	816	742	525	422
RQW	The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	323	262	213	311	293	232
RKF	The Princess Royal Hospital NHS Trust	55	29	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RCX	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	284	308	295	236	191	135
RFR	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	138	159	192	194	220	262
RPY	The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	68	83	141	72	79	59
RL4	The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	172	401	484	280	158	121
RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	134	87	102	122	111	115
RM4	Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	271	242	297	342	255	100
RA7	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	1,244	697	567	535	513	611
RWD	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	758	793	919	885	856	542
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	157	272	483	547	605	458
RRK	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	168	163	99	69	76	72
RJE	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	1,038	886	1,379	849	592	446
RKB	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	624	581	274	128	284	156
RWE	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	1,053	1,042	895	534	401	442
RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	106	82	134	183	182	133
RET	Walton Centre For Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust	97	161	213	115	125	91
RBD	West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	390	378	332	408	288	143
RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	244	815	666	621	929	790
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	105	116	52	69	28	92
RGR	West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	194	425	585	275	225	170
RA3	Weston Area Health NHS Trust	219	178	127	113	93	46
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	332	389	494	312	261	120
RN1	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	376	712	490	293	356	206
RBL	Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	148	112	53	58	73	76
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	9
RWP	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	856	1,073	943	656	389	293
RPL	Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	91	139	284	306	314	249

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in England, 2002-03 to 2007-08

		Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons					
OrgID	*Name*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 Q1 to Q3*
RRF	Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	391	308	250	249	245	234
RCB	York Hospitals NHS Trust	150	162	187	121	86	81

Notes:
1. The table shows the organisations as they existed, at the time of each collection.
2. A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation.
3. Some common non-clinical reasons for cancellations by the hospital include: ward beds unavailable; surgeon unavailable; emergency case needing theatre; theatre list over-ran; equipment failure; admin error; anaesthetist unavailable; theatre staff unavailable; and critical care bed unavailable.
4. An operation which is rescheduled to a time within 24 hours of the original scheduled operation should be recorded as a postponement and not as a cancellation. The QMCO collection does not record the number of postponements.

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMCO

Vaccination: Thiomersal

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what year the NHS ceased to use thiomersal in vaccine doses under the public vaccination programme; and in what year the last vaccine stocks containing thiomersal were *(a)* exhausted and *(b)* withdrawn. [204011]

Dawn Primarolo: The routine childhood vaccination programme has used only thiomersal-free vaccines from September/October 2004. The remaining centrally held stocks containing thiomersal were destroyed when their date expired. No vaccine was withdrawn.

Details of the changes, including the rational, are contained in the Chief Medical Officer's letter, copies of which have been placed in the Library and are also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefmedicalofficerletters/DH_4087345.

Wafarin

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision of wafarin monitoring services by private providers; and what assessment he has made of the provision of such services by a private provider in the Birmingham area. [202357]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning services to meet the health needs of their local population, including anticoagulant medicine. The National Patient Safety Agency issued Patient Safety Alert 18 concerning Safer Practice with Anticoagulants in March 2007. The alert included a range of safer practice recommendations to make the use of anticoagulants safer. These included guidance for commissioners of anticoagulants services.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 9 May 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Child Minding: Registration

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of childminders were deregistered in each year since 1997, broken down by reason for deregistration; [200555]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* daycare settings and *(b)* childminders in Basingstoke were awarded ratings of (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) inadequate following an inspection by Ofsted in each of the last five years. [200558]

Beverley Hughes: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 April 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The regulation of Early Years provision transferred from Local Authorities to Ofsted in September 2001, and was subject to transition arrangements until the end of March 2003. We are only able to provide figures after this transition period, from April 2003.

The data table attached contains figures for each financial year and these are taken from the snapshot of provider lists taken on the first working day of April each year.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Numbers and proportions of childminders deregistered in each financial year since 2003[1]

		Number			Percentage		
Financial year	*Number of Childminders at the beginning of the financial year*	*Cancelled*	*Resigned*	*Total*	*Cancelled*	*Resigned*	*Total*
2003/04	68,165	1,209	10,864	12,131	2	16	18
2004/05	72,380	2,970	12,378	15,477	4	17	21
2005/06	70,182	968	9,454	10,458	1	13	15
2006/07	71,622	3,204	9,739	13,012	4	14	18
2007/08	69,925	2,859	11,973	14,889	4	17	21

[1]Please note that percentages in the data tables may not add up to match the total column due to rounding

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 April 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The childcare data tables attached have been derived from the Ofsted Early Years summary reports produced annually and from internal Ofsted data reports. The data for financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are taken from the Early Years summary reports. The data for years 2003-04 and 2004-05 are taken from Ofsted data reports which provide cumulative data recording the number of inspections during the given financial year.

The figures for each financial year are derived from the snapshot of providers undertaken on the first working day of April each year and include active providers only. For each financial year our figures use the most recent inspection visits, where the reports have been quality assured or have not been withdrawn from publication.

Please note that the outcome judgements changed from a 3-point scale in April 2005 (good, Satisfactory or unsatisfactory), to a 4-point scale (outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate) thereafter. Direct comparisons should therefore not be made between these reports scales.

The selection of providers for inspection each year is not random. As a result, it is possible that groups of 'stronger' or 'weaker' providers are selected, biasing the inspection outcomes. The distribution of inspection grades in any one year, therefore, does not necessarily reflect the national position.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Judgment on the quality gradings from child care inspections, in Basingstoke of active Childminders across the years[1]

	Number of Inspections				Percentage		
2003 to 2005	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*	*Total*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*
2003/04	22	45	0	67	33	67	0
2004/05	93	52	0	145	64	36	0

	Number of Inspections					Percentage			
2005 to 2008	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2005/06	2	40	15	1	58	3	69	26	2
2006/07	0	26	16	5	47	0	55	34	11
2007/08	8	51	34	10	103	8	50	33	10

[1] Please note that percentages in the data tables may not sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding.

Judgment on the quality gradings from child care inspections, in Basingstoke of active Day care providers across the years [1]

	Number of Inspections				Percentage		
2003 to 2005	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*	*Total*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*
2003/04	12	19	0	31	39	61	0
2004/05	26	13	0	39	67	33	0

	Number of Inspections					Percentage			
2005 to 2008	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2005/06	0	12	11	2	25	0	48	44	8
2006/07	2	12	10	2	26	8	46	38	8
2007/08	2	21	9	2	34	6	62	26	6

[1] Please note that percentages in the data tables may not sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding.

Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the proportion of children living with both parents in each local authority area. [200984]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the estimate is of the proportion of children living with both parents in each local authority area. (200984)

As no published tables exist that provide the requested figures, Table C0905 has been specially run and is based on 2001 Census Theme Table on all dependent children (T01). The table covers all local authorities in England and Wales and has been deposited in the House of Commons Library.

Children In Care: Nurseries

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in care aged *(a)* three and above and *(b)* below three attended daycare nursery in each of the last 10 years. [204141]

Beverley Hughes: The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that there were 766,900 children attending full day care providers in England. The proportion of children attending, by age, for each year available, is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Percentage of children attending full day care provision, by age

		Percentage
	2005	*2006*
Total number of children	704,200	766,900
Under two years old	21	20
Two years old	24	24
Three years old	28	31
Four years old	20	21
Five to seven years old	4	2
Eight years old and over	3	1

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding.

The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey does not collect information about children in care.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* childminders, *(b)* all daycare providers, *(c)* private, voluntary and independent daycare providers and *(d)* children's centres there are in each local authority classified by index of multiple deprivation decile. [204128]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not collected on the number of providers by index of multiple deprivation decile.

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of childcare providers. A table showing the number of providers and places registered with Ofsted at 31 March 2007 by each local authority has been placed in the Library.

Children's Centres

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Sure Start children's centres there will be in 2010; [203712]

(2) how many Sure Start children's centres have been closed in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since their inception; [203713]

(3) how much capital funding for Sure Start children's centres in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England his Department has provided in each year since the Sure Start programme commenced; [203780]

(4) how many outreach workers his Department has employed in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each of the last five years; [203782]

(5) how many Sure Start children's centres have been established in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the Sure Start programme commenced. [203791]

Beverley Hughes: There are currently 2,906 designated Sure Start Children's Centres in England. By 2010 there will be 3,500 children's centres, one for every community. No centres have been closed since their inception. Prior to 2004 there were 524 Sure Start Local Programmes, the vast majority of which have now made the transition into children's centres.

The further information requested is given in the tables below. Local authorities are responsible for the establishment and operation of children's centres. The Department does not collect information on the number of outreach workers employed by children's centres.

Sure Start Local Programmes

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
(a) Jarrow	0	0	1	2	2
(b) South Tyneside	0	1	2	4	5
(c) North East	4	20	30	53	62
(d) England	22	124	240	401	524

Notes:
1. Figures are cumulative.
2. Figures are available for England only.
3. Most SSLPs have now been designated as children's centres.

Designated Children's Centres

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	31 March 2008
(a) Jarrow	0	1	3	4	5	6
(b) South Tyneside	0	3	6	9	10	12
(c) North East	6	31	51	114	147	182
(d) England	59	189	443	1,049	1,888	2,906

Notes:
1. Figures are cumulative.
2. Figures are available for England only.
3. Former SSLPs that have become children's centres are included in these figures.

All Sure Start Local Programme and Children's Centre Capital Expenditure Estimates

£ million

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
(b) South Tyneside	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.963	0.769	1.075	3.630	0.606
(c) North East	0.000	0.058	3.272	11.098	12.233	12.708	35.789	16.152
(d) England	3.588	1.278	7.816	70.686	83.934	145.923	314.171	219.371

Notes:
1. Data is not available by constituency so we are unable to provide figures for (a) Jarrow.
2. Data is available for England only.
3. The South Tyneside data is actual expenditure but that for the North East and England contains estimates because we do not yet have final data for the entire population.
4. For 2006-07, the expenditure data includes integrated projects (i.e. those which target more than one policy area).

Children's Centres: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children's centre outreach workers he proposes to provide by 2010; [204176]

(2) how many outreach workers he proposes to provide in each children's centre in the super output areas ranked in the *(a)* first to third, *(b)* fourth to seventh and *(c)* eighth to tenth deciles of deprivation by 2010. [204178]

Beverley Hughes: We expect all Sure Start Children's Centres to provide outreach services, although the level and intensity of such provision will vary according to the needs of the local community. Outreach is part of the role of a wide range of practitioners. While many practitioners engaged in outreach to families with young children will be employed in a children's centre or by a local authority, we encourage local authorities to build on other existing local capacity, such as health visitors, relevant third sector workers, and trained volunteers. Our priority is to help children's centres in the most disadvantaged areas to build their outreach capacity to meet local needs. In this context, children's centre revenue funding provides local authorities with resources for two additional outreach practitioners per children's centre in the most deprived (super output) areas.

We will be reviewing the delivery of outreach in a range of settings with a view to establishing core principles and standards for effective and comprehensive outreach services. We will support this with appropriate training materials and courses and will provide additional funding for practitioners in children's centres to take up new training opportunities.

Class Sizes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to improve pupil to teacher ratios since 1997. [203732]

Jim Knight: The Government have been able to improve the PTR by increasing the supply of teachers. There are now 441,200 teachers in our schools, almost 41,000 more than in 1997. In this period the overall PTR has fallen from 18.6 to 16.9.

The PTR is also influenced by the rise and fall in pupil numbers over time. The Government regularly models the number of teacher training places required in future years by taking account of this and a range of other factors.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based; [200726]

(2) what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91. [200727]

Jim Knight: The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is an unfunded defined benefit scheme. Liabilities are estimated each year by the Government Actuary's Department and a statement is included in scheme resource accounts.

Financial Services: Education

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to introduce personal finance education as part of the future schools curriculum at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary level; and if he will make a statement. [204218]

Jim Knight: It is crucial that all young people leave school with the skills and confidence to manage their money well. Personal finance education is already part of Personal, Social and Health Education at Key Stages 1 to 4. However, the revised curriculum for secondary schools includes a new dedicated programme of study for 'Economic Well Being and Financial Capability' as part of a revised Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. The new curriculum will begin teaching from September 2008 and will add a new focus on financial education in secondary schools. Sir Jim Rose is currently carrying out an independent review of the primary curriculum. He is due to report to Ministers in March 2009.

Additionally, citizenship education, which is statutory at Key Stages 3 and 4, requires that 14 to 16-year-olds be taught how the economy functions, including the role of business and financial services. We are also introducing functional mathematics to the maths GCSE, which means that from 2010 all pupils who achieve a grade C or above will have mastered the basics.

To support schools in meeting these curriculum requirements, we are investing £11.5 million over the next three years to support good financial education in schools. This investment will support revised curriculum guidance for financial capability, innovative curriculum resources with the Child Trust Fund as a focus, and more high-quality training and support for teachers.

Food: Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people are training to teach food technology. [203149]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the total number of trainees on food technology initial teacher training (ITT) courses for the academic year 2007-08.

Number of trainees on food technology ITT courses

	2007-08
Mainstream	230
Employment-based ITT	50

Notes:
1. Figures are individually rounded to the nearest 10
2. Figures for mainstream trainees include universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but exclude employment based ITT (EBITT) schemes.
3. Figures include trainees who are resitting all or part of their ITT programme.
4. Figures are for the total number of trainees on ITT courses therefore include all trainees at all stages on courses of one to five year durations.
5. EBITT figures include trainees through the graduate teacher programme (GTP), the registered teacher programme (RTP), the overseas trained teacher programme (OTTP). There are currently no trainees on a food technology Teach First (TF) programme. Figures are taken from the employment based ITT data management system as at 30 April 2008 and are subject to change.
6. Trainees who withdrew before their programme start date are removed from the above data.

Source:
ITT Trainee Number Census and TDA Employment Based ITT Database

Approximately 800 secondary school food technology teacher training places will be made available over the three-year period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Languages: GCE A-Level

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils obtained an A-level in *(a)* German, *(b)* French and *(c)* Spanish in each year since 2000. [203774]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows.

	Number of pupils obtaining a GCE A level	*Percentage of pupils entered into exam obtaining a GCE A level*
French		
1999-2000	14,060	92.3
2000-01	14,148	91.9
2001-02	13,214	97.2
2002-03	12,637	97.9
2003-04	12,298	98.5
2004-05	11,802	98.7
2005-06	12,063	99.0
2006-07	12,028	99.0
German		
1999-2000	7,092	93.5
2000-01	7,096	93.3
2001-02	6,188	97.2
2002-03	5,916	97.5
2003-04	5,523	97.9
2004-05	5,141	98.1
2005-06	5,456	98.6
2006-07	5,557	99.0
Spanish		
1999-2000	4,207	93.2
2000-01	4,174	92.7
2001-02	4,314	97.4
2002-03	4,434	98.4
2003-04	4,576	98.4
2004-05	4,883	99.0
2005-06	5,148	99.0
2006-07	5,431	98.9

Note:
Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all schools and colleges.

Literacy: Teaching Methods

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which reading programmes are approved by his Department for the teaching of synthetic phonics. [202070]

Jim Knight: High-quality, systematic phonics, as advocated by the Rose review, should be the prime approach in teaching children to read.

The Department does not approve commercial phonics teaching programmes. To help schools and early years settings in choosing the appropriate phonics support, we have provided a set of core criteria that define the key features of an effective phonics teaching programme. The core criteria build directly on Jim Rose's recommendations.

Schools and settings are able to access self-assessments of commercial phonics resources on the Department's phonics website at

www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/phonics/.

However, the existence of publishers' self-assessments on this site does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement of the products they represent.

Nurseries: Standards

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many (a) maintained and (b) independent nurseries in each local authority were placed in special measures in each year since 2001. [202181]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member, and a cop of her reply has been placed in House Library.

Nurseries: Vacancies

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of trends in the level of staff vacancies in *(a)* maintained and *(b)* private voluntary and independent nurseries since 1997. [204139]

Beverley Hughes: The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that there was a total of 10,400 vacancies in childcare providers (full day care, sessional care and out of school clubs).

The percentage of settings recruiting for none, one, two and three or more vacancies, by type of ownership is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Percentage of providers trying to recruit staff, by type of provision and ownership, 2006

	Private				*Voluntary*			
Number of vacancies	*None*	*1*	*2*	*3+*	*None*	*1*	*2*	*3+*
Full day care								
Senior Manager	86	13	<0.5	0	88	12	0	0
Supervisory staff	42	44	10	3	49	46	5	0
Other paid childcare staff	51	34	11	4	43	42	13	1
Sessional								
Senior Manager	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	86	14	0	0
Supervisory staff	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	55	41	5	0
Other paid childcare staff	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	41	40	19	0
Out of school clubs								
Senior Manager	82	16	0	0	84	14	1	0
Supervisory staff	49	24	18	4	51	41	4	4
Other paid childcare staff	43	34	14	3	43	28	18	10

[1] Data not included due to a very low base size.

Notes:

1. Figures on numbers of vacancies being recruited for in providers under local authority, school/college or other types of ownership are not shown due to very low base sizes.
2. Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent due to rounding and 'don't know' responses.

Data on numbers of vacancies being recruited for in providers under local authority, school/college or other types of ownership are not available due to very low base sizes.

Figures for previous years are not available.

Pre-School Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of existing early years workers who will require additional qualifications once the integrated qualifications framework comes into effect. [203899]

Beverley Hughes: The integrated qualifications framework, which will be available in 2010, will not impose a requirement for existing early years workers to undertake additional qualifications. The Department has not therefore made any such estimate.

Pupils: English Language

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what additional support is provided for schools with large numbers of children who have English as a second language; and if he will make a statement; [203496]

(2) what additional funding is made available to *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in respect of each pupil who has English as a second language; what the duration of the additional funding is; and if he will make a statement. [203499]

Jim Knight: The Government provide funding for children including those with English as an additional language through the Dedicated Schools Grant. This grant is supplemented by substantial provision through the ring-fenced Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) distributed to local authorities. For 2008-09 EMAG is worth £187.6 million, rising to £206 million in 2011.

In addition, an Exceptional Circumstances Grant has been introduced to reflect changes in local authorities' pupil numbers which occur after the three-year indicative allocations of the Dedicated Schools Grant have been announced. It has three elements, covering an increase of more than 2.5 per cent. in overall pupil numbers; an increase of more than 2.5 per cent. in the proportion of pupils with English as an additional language; and a one-off payment to authorities with proportions of pupils with English as an additional language below 10 per cent. which go up by more than 2.5 per cent.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides for *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* schools on the entering for key stage tests of pupils with English as a second language who arrive in England and are enrolled in school shortly before the test date; and if he will make a statement. [203497]

Jim Knight: The Department's advice is set out in: "New Arrivals Excellence Programme: Guidance" published in September 2007, of which a copy has been placed in the Library. It draws attention to the importance of initial assessment for new arrivals, and advises on appropriate methods. Guidance on entering children for key stage tests is provided by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority through its Assessment and Reporting Arrangements publications, which can be accessed from the website

www.qca.org.uk/eara

This guidance covers all children, whether or not they have recently arrived in the UK or have English as an additional language. In essence the advice is to enter children wherever they are working at the level of the tests. However, schools may apply for a recently arrived child's results not to be recorded in published Attainment and Achievement Tables.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of pupils who spoke English as a second language in *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* all schools in each local authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [203498]

Jim Knight: The proportion of pupils whose first language was other than English for the years 1997 to 2008 (provisional) is as follows:

	Percentage	
	Primary	*Secondary*
1997	7.8	7.3
1998	8.5	7.8
1999	8.4	7.8
2000	8.7	8.0
2001	9.3	8.0
2002	10.0	8.6
2003	10.5	8.8
2004	11.0	8.8
2005	11.6	9.0
2006	12.5	9.5
2007	13.5	10.5
2008	14.4	[1]10.8

[1] 2008 figure includes pupils at city technology colleges and academies; figures for earlier years do not.

Analysis by local authority can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of surplus school places there were in those local authorities ranked in the *(a)* top 10 and *(b)* bottom 10 in terms of the share of pupils achieving five A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [203493]

Jim Knight: The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus school places through an annual survey. The most recent data available relate to the position at January 2007.

The following table shows the number of surplus places in maintained secondary schools in local authorities that ranked nationally in the top 10 and lowest 10 in terms of the share of pupils achieving five A*-C GCSEs, including English and mathematics.

	Percentage of pupils achieving five A-C GCSE grades or equivalent, including English and Maths*[1]	*Surplus as a percentage of total secondary school places*
LAs—top10		
Sutton	65.00	4
Isles of Scilly	64.70	[2]0
Kingston upon Thames	61.70	5
Redbridge	61.50	3
Trafford	60.80	9
Buckinghamshire	60.50	4
Barnet	59.70	10
Hammersmith and Fulham	58.00	16
Rutland	58.00	11
Wokingham	57.60	7
LAs—lowest 10		
Greenwich	34.00	12
Portsmouth	33.10	9
Nottingham City	33.10	17
Manchester	32.30	9
Middlesbrough	31.90	11

	Percentage of pupils achieving five A*-C GCSE grades or equivalent, including English and Maths[1]	Surplus as a percentage of total secondary school places
Barnsley	31.50	4
Bristol, City of	31.50	17
Sandwell	30.20	8
Kingston-upon-Hull, City of	30.00	8
Knowsley	26.50	18

[1] Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in all schools published in the Schools Achievement and Attainment tables.
[2] The Five Islands Schools on the Isles of Scilly has 2 per cent. surplus places. This is included in our published primary school figures as the school is an all-through school which is middle-deemed primary.

Supply Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 240W, on supply teachers, what the reasons for the difference in spending on supply teachers between 2005-06 and 2006-07 were; and if he will make a statement. [203904]

Jim Knight: Following a review of the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 240W, and the data given, it appears that a clerical error was made in the response provided.

The correct value of spend on supply teachers in maintained schools in each year from 1997-98 was as follows:

£

	Supply teaching staff	Agency supply teaching staff	Total
2002-03	484,510,938	356,530,225	841,041,163
2003-04	462,741,309	372,491,669	835,232,978
2004-05	438,806,050	384,905,468	823,711,518
2005-06	454,848,557	434,073,749	888,922,306
2006-07	433,869,906	439,622,332	873,492,238

Prior to 2002-03 expenditure on supply teachers was not separately identifiable, so these data are not available. Data for the period 2007-08 are not yet available.

Teaching Methods

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library *(a)* the latest data obtained by Ofsted on the extent of setting in schools, broken down by subject, age and pupil and *(b)* a copy of his Department's guidance on setting. [202069]

Jim Knight: HM Chief Inspector Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member with regard to Ofsted's latest data on setting. A copy of her reply has been placed in the Library. I have placed in the Library a copy of the Department's guidance on pupil grouping, 'Grouping Pupils for Success', and the two pieces of independent research, commissioned by the Department, on which this guidance is based: 'Pupil Grouping Strategies and Practices at Key Stage 2 and 3' (published September 2006) and 'Effective Teaching and Learning for Pupils in Low Attaining Groups' (published September 2007).

'Grouping Pupils for Success' can be accessed at

http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primary/publications/literacy/group_pup_succ/

'Pupil Grouping Strategies and Practices at Key Stage 2 and 3' can be accessed at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectid=14415&resultspage=1

'Effective Teaching and Learning for Pupils in Low Attaining Groups' can be accessed at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectid=14659&resultspage=1

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 April 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response to part (a). The Department for Children, Schools and Families will respond separately to part (b).

Our current data do not enable us to count or estimate how many lessons in England are set by ability. The attached tables show the data Ofsted has on the proportion of lessons observed during inspections carried out in the academic year 2006/07, by subject, phase of education and year. Inspectors record whether classes are setted, streamed or banded, as one category, or are mixed ability in composition. A third category is used for lessons in which other forms of grouping are used. When a lesson observed is setted, streamed or banded by ability, a note is made of the ability level of the class concerned.

The data are based on the use of setting, streaming or banding in lessons observed during inspection. Some explanation of these figures may be helpful. Since September 2005, the recording of class organisation has been based either on discussions with the head teacher or teacher by reference to the lesson plan at the time of observation. A much smaller number of lessons is observed than would have been seen under the previous inspection framework. Lessons seen may therefore not represent pupil grouping in the school as a whole.

For clarity, setting is the term used to describe the organisation of pupils in classes on the basis of their prior attainment in the particular subject being taught. The term banding, which is very similar to streaming, is used when the decision as to which pupils are included in a class is based on the prior attainment in a range of subjects. Ofsted does not differentiate between setting, streaming and banding in the data collected during lesson observations.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Truancy: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many parents have received *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more fixed penalty notices in relation to condoned absenteeism of pupils since 2004; and if he will make a statement; [203540]

(2) how many parents have received fixed penalty notices in relation to condoned absenteeism of pupils since their inception, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile; and if he will make a statement. [203541]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available. The Department only collects aggregate data at local authority level on the number of penalty notices issued to parents in respect of the offence of failing to ensure their children's regular school attendance.

Working Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of people claimed the child care element of the working tax credit in *(a)* the Basingstoke constituency, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England in each year since records were available. [203152]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 916W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings in each local authority in England had council tax band amendments in 2007-08; how many involved properties moving up one or more bands; and how many moved down one or more bands in each local authority. [202624]

John Healey: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what regard her Department's *(a)* policies and *(b)* public service infrastructure requirements for eco-town sites differ from the requirements for development at sites which are not designated as eco-towns. [202661]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* As set out in the consultation document "Eco-towns—Living a greener future" we have set challenging criteria, which build on policies and infrastructure requirements for development at sites which are not eco-towns. For example, in terms of sustainable transport we have said that the location of major facilities and services such as shops and community facilities should be located within a 10-minute walk of homes within eco-towns. Copies of the consultation document are available in the Library of the House.

Eco-Towns: Council Tax

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will commission research on the likely effect of eco-towns on levels of council tax over the next 25 years for (i) residents of the local authority areas in which each of the proposed 15 eco-towns is situated and (ii) residents of all adjacent local authority areas. [203198]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* We are still consulting on the locations and schemes on the shortlist I published on 3 April 2008.

Eco-Towns: Shops

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy only to allow town centre shops to be permitted in eco-towns to reduce levels of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from transportation. [201842]

Caroline Flint: A well designed eco-town will make it easy to travel more sustainably between homes, services and jobs within the settlement. This would include shops and services located within a 10-minute walk of homes within eco-towns and streets designed to accommodate the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. We will also need to provide for sustainable travel to nearby settlements.

Eco-Towns: West Sussex

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department have had with Wates Developments Ltd on the proposed eco-town at Ford since 1 January 2005. [203809]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer7 May 2008]:* Neither the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government nor Ministers in her Department have held meetings with Wates Developments Ltd on the proposed eco-town at Ford since 1 January 2005. On 3 September 2007, officials met members of Wates Developments involved with the proposal for an eco-town at Ford. At the meeting they outlined their expression of interest for an eco-town, and officials confirmed the process and criteria for eco-towns as set out in the "Eco-towns Prospectus", published on 23 July 2007.

Housing: Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the proportion of projected household growth attributable to net migration in (i) London, (ii) the South East and (iii) the East of England. [201003]

Caroline Flint: None. Such information is available at the England level only from the Department's Household Projections.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Government plan to respond to the Sixth Report of the Communities and Local Government Committee, HC 195, on Refuse Collection: Waste Reduction Pilots, published on 21 February 2008. [204470]

John Healey: The Government submitted their response to the Communities and Local Government Committee on 21 April.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval for the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force, *(c)* Royal Navy and *(d)* Royal Marines was at the end of the 2007-08 financial year. [199475]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested, as average tour intervals across the single services as a whole are not currently calculated.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of force elements reported *(a)* no serious or critical and *(b)* no critical weaknesses against required peacetime readiness levels in each year since 1997. [203719]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have only been collecting and reporting such information since 2001-02. It has been published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts and quarterly performance reports for the years since, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of force elements reported *(a)* no serious or critical and *(b)* no critical weaknesses against the ability to generate from peacetime readiness to immediate readiness for deployment on operations in each year since 1997. [203720]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have only been collecting such information since 2004-05 and reporting it since 2005-06. It has been published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts and quarterly performance reports for the years since, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's manning evidence submitted to the Senior Salaries Review Board for each financial year from 1997-98. [185715]

Derek Twigg: All available information on the manning evidence submitted to the Senior Salaries Review Body from 1997-98 has now been collated and placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Personnel Management

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the effects on his Department's expenditure of the introduction of Joint Personnel Administration in each year since 2005. [202355]

Derek Twigg: The implementation costs for Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) by financial year were as follows.

	£ million
2005-06	14.9
2006-07	37.4
2007-08	22.7

These costs include technical development and delivery costs, but exclude single service costs incurred in adjusting to the new system which were absorbed as part of business operating costs.

The benefits accrued by financial year were as follows.

	£ million
2005-06	16.2
2006-07	38.4
2007-08	63.4

These figures include reduced costs within the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency and headcount reductions in each of the Services.

Consequently, the impact of JPA on departmental expenditure was broadly cost-neutral in 2005-06 and 2006-07, with a saving of some £40 million in 2007-08.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how his Department plans to monitor the impact of the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator on recruitment. [204354]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Armed Forces Benefits Calculator (ABC) is a new initiative which builds on the success of the pension calculator to provide service personnel with the means of working out an indicative value for their total remuneration package, incorporating basic pay, specialist pay, individual allowances, pension, and other benefits. As such, it is retention focused: the calculator has been developed to better communicate to service personnel the value of their 'total reward' package, and other associated financial remuneration information.

The MOD also regards strongly the ABC's value to recruiting, because it provides those thinking about joining the armed forces with a means of investigating the type of remuneration and benefits available. In future, the single services will be able to understand its impact, and the role it plays in determining why an individual wishes to enlist, from initial interviews. The calculator uses a combination of existing pay rates and allowances (details of which can be found at http://www.mod-abc.co.uk), and some new values, which have been agreed with subject matter experts and the single services. These new values are included to provide a broad indication of what some of the other benefits that personnel receive in return for military service (such as dental care, and health and fitness facilities) might cost to replicate in civilian life.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what timescale his Department has for the phasing out of personnel carriers with *(a)* inadequate armour and *(b)* those not designed to withstand improvised explosive device detonations; [201586]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the operational viability of BAE RG31 vehicles, or similar vehicles, built to withstand improvised explosive device detonations; [201587]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the viability of replacing Land Rover and Vector vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan with armoured vehicles built to withstand improvised explosive device detonations. [201588]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Commanders need a range of vehicles of varying protection, mobility and profile to achieve their missions and tasks and counter the threat.

In 2006 the BAE RG-31 was considered in detail, along with the ADI Bushmaster and FPI Cougar 6x6, to fulfil the need for a large protected patrol vehicle that could meet our demanding protection requirements in the fastest possible time. The Cougar was selected and is now known as Mastiff; it has undergone rigorous assessment throughout the procurement process and continues to be assessed, in order to counter emerging threats.

Additional deliveries of Mastiff and a new medium protected patrol vehicle to be called Ridgeback, may allow a reduction in the number of Snatch Land Rovers; however, commanders hold that a role for lighter vehicles on operations is likely to remain, as part of the suite of protected patrol vehicles and high mobility patrol vehicles available to them.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what restrictions are in place on the movement of armed forces personnel in the back of 4-tonne vehicles with regard to *(a)* maximum distance travelled and *(b)* time allowed in the back of the vehicle. [203821]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* The 4-tonne vehicle referred to in this question is defined as a Dual Purpose Vehicle (DPV). When used to carry passengers, the DPV can be used on public roads for single journeys of not more than 40 miles and not exceeding one hour. This distance and time may only be exceeded when personnel are carrying out operations, training for operations and conducting formal field training exercises.

DPVs fitted with troop-carrying vehicle enhanced seating are exempt from these time and distance restrictions, when travelling on metalled roads. Where they are used to carry passengers in off road scenarios, journey times should not exceed one hour at 20 to 25 mph over an eight hour period. Enhanced seating is being progressively phased in throughout the DPV fleet.

Armed Forces: Working Conditions

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of service personnel at each rank between OR1 and OR6 have worked above 55 hours per week on average since October 2007. [200949]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) carries out a continuous sample survey of working patterns, which provides information on hours worked in a given week.

The survey is based on a random sample of 18,000 trained service personnel stratified by service, broad rank group and broad location which aims to provide estimates of the average weekly hours worked for those groups and locations.

Since any respondent only provides a diary of their working hours for a single week, we cannot make any further inferences about individual working patterns over a prolonged period.

Work is currently in progress on the 2007-08 Survey of Working Patterns, and the report is expected to be ready towards the end of 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of service personnel at each rank between OR1 and OR6 worked above 55 hours per week on average between October 2006 and October 2007. [200950]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) carries out a continuous sample survey of working patterns, which provides information on hours worked in a given week.

The survey is based on a random sample of 18,000 trained service personnel stratified by service, broad rank group and broad location which aims to provide estimates of the average weekly hours worked for those groups and locations.

Since any respondent will only provide a diary of their working hours for a single week, we cannot make any further inferences about individual working patterns over a prolonged period.

The average weekly hours worked for senior ranks (OR6 to OR9) in 2006-07 was 47.9 and junior ranks (OR1 to OR5) 46.7. Time spent working includes core activities, secondary duties, compulsory fitness, training, organised sports and representational activities but excludes breaks.

A copy of the 2006-07 Continuous Working Patterns report is in the Library of the House.

Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the longest period is for which a residential or former residential dwelling of his Department in Colchester constituency has remained empty. [195987]

Derek Twigg: Data is only available for residential properties which are currently empty. Of these, seven properties at Colchester have been vacant for seven years awaiting major modernisation. These seven properties now form part of the Colchester upgrade programme spanning financial years 2009-11.

In 1996, the Ministry of Defence sold most of its Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in England and Wales to Annington Homes Ltd (AHL),

the majority of which were immediately leased back by this Department for defence use. When surplus to defence requirements, properties are handed back to AHL, which is solely responsible for the property until AHL sells the property on the open market. The MOD is not required to maintain records of these properties once they have been handed back to AHL.

Since May 2007, the total number of void SFA properties in Great Britain has taken from 9,162 to 8,761 properties.

Ex-Servicemen: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the ability of the Joint Service Housing Advice Office to assist service leavers on their departure from the armed forces. [203988]

Derek Twigg: The Joint Service Housing Advice Office's main task is to ensure that the service community is aware of new schemes from both the public and private sector that may help them in their search for civilian housing when they leave the Services.

During 2007, the JSHAO ran 85 briefings designed to encourage Service personnel to make long term housing provision while they are in service. These briefings were attended by over 2,000 service personnel.

The JSHAO maintains links with housing associations that have a specific commitment to help service leavers and their housing needs. It also runs a referral scheme, the MOD Nomination Scheme, through which a total of 81 families and individuals were housed in 2007.

Saudi Arabia: BAE Systems

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he or any of the Ministers in his Department has been informed by *(a)* BAE Systems and *(b)* the Serious Fraud Office of any payments made by BAES to the ex-Saudi ambassador to the US, Prince Bandar bin Sultan. [201581]

Des Browne: It is our policy not to comment on commercially or diplomatically sensitive or legally privileged information because to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations, commercial confidentiality or our legal obligations.

Territorial Army: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army personnel are based in Northern Ireland. [204665]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of Territorial Army personnel based in Northern Ireland as at 31 March 2008 was 1,962. Additionally there were 100 TA personnel, normally based in Northern Ireland, mobilised and serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Assets: Consultants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2844W, on Assets: Consultants, on which *(a)* properties and *(b)* other parts of the estate each of the firms listed provided advice. [198099]

Mr. Watson: I have nothing to add to my previous answer.

Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many newly diagnosed cases of each type of cancer there were in each year since 1997. [201945]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking how many newly diagnosed cases of each type of cancer there were in each year since 1997. [201945]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of each type of cancer are for the year 2005. Figures for 1997 to 2005 can be found in Tables 1 and 7 of the Annual Reference Volume, Cancer statistics: Registrations, Series MB1, available from the NS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Productasp?vlnk=8843&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=224

Carbon Monoxide: Death

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths there were in England as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning in each year since 1997, broken down by Government Office region. [203133]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were in England as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning in each year since 1997, broken down by Government Office Region. (203133)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where the toxic effect of carbon monoxide was the cause of death, in England and each government office region, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Number of deaths with a cause of carbon monoxide poisoning[1], England and Government office regions, 1997 to 2005[2,3]

Deaths (persons)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	816	694	646	527	466	419	358	344	232	240
North East	40	46	24	34	23	22	18	16	4	10
North West	129	115	81	51	71	59	66	44	30	30
Yorkshire and the Humber	84	68	65	63	49	37	24	41	31	24

Number of deaths with a cause of carbon monoxide poisoning[1], England and Government office regions, 1997 to 2005[2,3]

Deaths (persons)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
East Midlands	87	68	71	55	55	34	31	27	21	26
West Midlands	88	79	87	77	55	52	45	44	32	34
East of England	80	85	72	48	60	57	52	39	31	27
London	81	51	61	45	36	28	27	37	23	18
South East	143	103	117	84	59	72	54	57	38	37
South West	84	79	68	70	58	58	41	39	22	34

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 986 for the years 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T58 for the years 2001 to 2006.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Childbirth

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on which dates the number of *(a)* live births and *(b)* stillbirths that took place in the previous year was published in each of the last five years. [202391]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about the dates on which the number of (a) live births and (b) stillbirths that took place in the previous year were published in each of the last five years. (202391)

The Office for National Statistics is responsible for publishing statistics on the numbers of births registered in England and Wales. The latest year for which figures are available is 2006.

The table below gives the dates on which the numbers of live births and still births in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006 were first published. Live births are first published as part of the first release of births and deaths data. Stillbirths are first published in Health Statistics Quarterly (within the infant and perinatal mortality report).

Date of publication (England and Wales)

Year of birth	Live births	Stillbirths
2002	13 May 2003	2 1 August 2003
2003	13 May 2004	19 August 2004[1]
2004	12 May 2005	25m August 2005[1]
2005	18 May 2006	30 August 2006
2006	7 June 2007[1]	23rd August 2007

[1] Revisions are sometimes necessary if further information becomes available at a later date. In the instances indicated in the table these were made in August following the first release.

Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* couples had at least one child below the age of five in (i) Basingstoke constituency, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England in each year for which figures are available. [202989]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of (a) individuals and (b) couples had at least one child below the age of five years in (i) Basingstoke, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England in each year for which figures are available. (202989)

The requested counts for Local Authorities/Parliamentary Constituencies are only available from the Census. Figures from earlier Censuses would only be available at disproportionate cost. The figures from the 2001 Census are provided below:

Area	Lone parent families with at least one dependent child aged 0 to 4	Percentage of all families with dependent children, who are lone parent families with at least one dependent child aged 0 to 4	Couple families with at least one dependent child aged 0 to 4	Percentage of all families with dependent children who are couple families with at least one dependent child aged 0 to 4
England	503,391	8.4	1,810,063	30.1
Hampshire	8,478	5.6	48,421	31.9
Basingstoke and Deane District	1,274	6.5	6,620	33.9
Basingstoke Parliamentary Constituency	1,033	7.5	4,640	33.8

Notes:
1. A dependent child is a person in a household aged 0 to 15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 who is a full-time student in a family with parent(s).
2. A family comprises a group of people consisting of a married or cohabiting couple with or without child(ren), or a lone parent with child(ren). It also includes a married or cohabiting couple with their grandchild(ren) or a lone grandparent with his or her grandchild(ren) where there are no children in the intervening generation in the household. Cohabiting couples include same sex couples. Children in a couple family need not belong to both members of the couple.
3. The counts for Hampshire exclude the Unitary Authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton.

Source:
2001 Census Tables S007 and CAS007

Children: Bereavement

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of those under the age of *(a)* three, *(b)* five and *(c)* 16 had been bereaved by the death of their (i) mother, (ii) father and (iii) sibling at the latest date for which figures are available. [202856]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many and what proportion of those under the age of (a) three, (b) five and (c) 16 years had been

bereaved by the death of their (i) mother, (ii) father and (iii) sibling at the latest date for which figures are available. (202856)

Although information on the relationship of the informant to the deceased is collected at death registration, information on whether the deceased had living children or siblings when death occurred is not, and therefore the information requested is not available.

Children: Death

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of children under the age of *(a)* three, *(b)* five and *(c)* 16 died in each year since 1997. [202849]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many and what proportion of children under the age of (a) three, (b) five and (c) 16 died in each year since 1997. (202849)

The total number of deaths and rate per 100,000 for children under the age of (a) three, (b) five and (c) 16 in each year from 1997 to 2006 for England and Wales are shown in the attached table.

Deaths in children by age, England and Wales, 1997-2006[1]

	Number of deaths			*Rate per 100,000 population of the same age*		
	Under 3	*Under 5*	*Under 16*	*Under 3*	*Under 5*	*Under 16*
1997	4,306	4,545	5,711	223	139	54
1998	4,095	4,321	5,415	214	134	51
1999	4,136	4,351	5,388	217	136	51
2000	3,777	4,001	4,965	203	127	47
2001	3,655	3,868	4,891	202	125	47
2002	3,550	3,737	4,724	199	123	45
2003	3,683	3,894	4,862	206	129	47
2004	3,641	3,826	4,725	200	127	46
2005	3,616	3,767	4,647	193	123	45
2006	3,760	3,927	4,814	196	126	47

[1] Data are for registrations of death in each calendar year.

Citizen Information Project

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recommendations of the Citizen Information Project the Office for National Statistics has implemented; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report. [203127]

Mr. Watson: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what recommendations of the Citizen Information Project the Office for National Statistics has implemented. (203133)

On 18 April 2006 (*Official Report*, column 1WS) the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced that the Government had accepted the recommendations by the CIP team based in the Office for National Statistics. The CIP project was subsequently closed by ONS: the relevant government departments will have been responsible for implementing the recommendations. A copy of the report can be found at:

http://www.gro.gov.uk/cip

Construction: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed in the construction industry in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [198839]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Katen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many people have been employed in the construction industry in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. (198839).

The definitive source for the number of people employed is normally the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, because of the interest in the construction sector, estimates of the number of jobs have been compiled from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI/1).

Table 1 attached provides an estimate of jobs in Construction (Standard Industrial Classification (1992) section F) for Great Britain, the North East, South Tyneside and Jarrow for each year from 1997 to 2006, the most recent available. Estimates using the ABI/1 are not available for the United Kingdom.

Figures from the ABI/1 do not include self-employed jobs and therefore these estimates will understate the actual total number of jobs.

As with any survey, results from the ABI/1 are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Number of jobs in Construction Industries[1, 2]

Thousand (not seasonally adjusted)

	Great Britain	*North East*	*South Tyneside*	*Jarrow*[3]
1997[4]	1,004	53	4	3
1998	1,108	52	3	2
1999	1,131	56	3	2
2000	1,128	56	2	1
2001	1,156	57	2	1
2002	1,163	54	2	1
2003	1,138	53	2	1
2004	1,181	58	2	1
2005	1,213	62	3	2
2006	1,257	60	2	1

[1] Standard Industrial Classification (1992) section F.

[2] The Annual Business Inquiry does not include estimates of self-employment jobs. Therefore the estimates provided will be lower than the actual total.

[3] 1995 Parliamentary Constituency Revision Boundary.

[4] Figures for 1997 are based on estimates from the rescaled Annual Employment Survey and therefore there is a discontinuity between 1997 and 1998.

Notes:

1. Annual Business Inquiry figures are a measure of jobs rather than people. For example, if a person holds two jobs, each job will be counted in the total.
2. Estimates for the United Kingdom using the Annual Business Inquiry are not available.
3. There are significant discontinuities which affect comparisons of the 2006 ABI/1 estimates with earlier years and additionally with respect to changes to Standard Industrial Classifications and Geographies in 2003. More information is available from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/abi/backgroundjnfo.asp. *Source:* Annual Business Inquiry (ABI/1)

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [204114]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office is a member of the Government carbon offsetting fund (GCOF). The GCOF aims to fulfil the Prime Minister's commitment to offset emissions attributable to all official and ministerial air travel in central Government. It is available to all central Government Departments and provides a simple and cost-effective way to offset, as well as ensuring high environmental integrity. The GCOF runs for an initial period of three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09). The Cabinet Office and DEFRA have offset an extra year (2005-06).

The Cabinet Office has paid £32,326.88 into the GCOF from April 2005 to April 2007. Data are currently being collected for the 2007-08 reporting year, and will be available later in the year.

The GCOF is being managed by EEA Fund Management Ltd, which won the contract to source and deliver 255,000 certified emission reduction credits, with a provision for a further 50,000 credits, over three years from a range of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects. Credits will be supplied from the project portfolio of Trading Emissions plc, to whom EEA is the investment adviser.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what severance payment the Director of Political Strategy in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr Spencer Livermore, will receive upon leaving his post. [196642]

Mr. Watson: Paragraph 14b of the Model Contract for Special Advisers sets out the circumstances in which severance is paid. Copies of the model contract are available in the Library of the House. Mr. Livermore did not receive a severance payment.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12-month period for which information is available. [187786]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office does not keep separate records of expenditure on alcohol or entertaining. Such expenditure is included in the Department's hospitality budget and is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and other Treasury guidance.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198965]

Mr. Watson: The most recent published absence data for the Cabinet Office are available for the 12 months ending 31 March 2007, in the Analysis of Cabinet Office Statistics. This is available on the civil service statistics website at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp.

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

In order to protect the confidentiality of individuals, it is standard Government practice not to publish records relating to five or less individuals. A breakdown of figures on absence owing to stress by grade and period of absence cannot be provided, since this may compromise the privacy of the individuals because of the small numbers involved.

Departmental Standards

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how his Department plans to work on social clauses to promote adherence to the Best Value Code of Practice on Workforce Matters and the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Workforce Matters. [203324]

Phil Hope: The Department has no plans to work on social clauses to promote adherence to the Best Value Code of Practice on Workforce Matters and the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Workforce Matters. Under the code, public-sector organisations have a responsibility to ensure that service providers implement the code, whereas social clauses cover additional clauses in public service contracts which are used at the discretion of the public sector commissioner.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time posts in the Cabinet Office were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in each of the last three years. [200656]

Mr. Watson: For the number of temporary staff working in the Department, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North Cornwall (Dan Rogerson) on 22 April 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1957-8W, by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope).

The Department does not centrally hold information on length of tenure for temporary staff, and the information could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Employment

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of those in employment in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the east of England were British-born UK nationals in each of the last five years. [201493]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of those in employment in (a) Suffolk and (b) the East of England were British-born UK nationals in each of the last five years. (201493)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The attached table shows the percentage of persons of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women) in employment who were British-born UK nationals. Estimates are obtained from the annual LFS for each 12 month period from 2003 to 2004 ending in February. For time series comparisons, the APS estimates from 2005 to 2007 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in March, but the most recently released estimate is also included, which covers the 12 month period ending in September 2007.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

In order to produce estimates for small geographical areas, APS and annual LFS estimates are provided based on survey microdata. It should be noted that the estimate provided is weighted to population estimates consistent with those published in 2003. Reweighted analyses using the latest population estimates, published in summer 2007, will available from 14 May 2008.

Table 1 : British born UK nationals as a proportion of those in employment[1] in (a) Suffolk and (b) the East of England in the last five years

Percentage

12 months ending:	Suffolk	East of England
February 2003	93	92
February 2004	93	93
March 2005	94	92
March 2006	91	91

Table 1 : British born UK nationals as a proportion of those in employment[1] in (a) Suffolk and (b) the East of England in the last five years

Percentage

12 months ending:	Suffolk	East of England
March 2007	93	89
September 2007	92	89

[1] Persons of working age (male 16 to 64, female 16 to 59).
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make an estimate of the number of people who are *(a)* in full-time work, *(b)* in part-time work for 20 to 30 hours per week, *(c)* in part-time work for 10 to 20 hours per week, *(d)* in part-time work for less than 10 hours per week and *(e)* out of work, broken down by age decile. [202553]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of people (a) in full-time work, (b) in part-time work for 20 to 30 hours per week, (c) in part-time work for 10 to 20 hours per week, (d) in part-time work for less than 10 hours per week and (e) out of work, broken down by age decile. (202553)

The attached table gives estimates of the number of people in full-time and part-time employment and the number of unemployed people for the categories requested for the three month period ending December 2007.

It should be noted that the estimates provided are weighted to population estimates consistent with those published in 2003. Reweighted analyses using the latest population estimates, published in summer 2007, will available from 14 May 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People aged 16 and over by labour market status, three months ending December 2007—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	In employment						
			Part-time[1]				
Age group	Full-time[1]	Total part-time	Less than 10 hours per week[2]	10 to 19 hours per week[2]	20 to 30 hours per week[2]	More than 30 hours per week[2]	Unemployed[3]
16 to 19	574	794	284	348	149	14	355
20 to 29	4,452	983	112	390	420	60	431
30 to 39	5,009	1,384	129	492	675	89	257
40 to 49	5,532	1,618	134	530	822	132	244
50 to 59	4,139	1,312	130	399	668	114	181
60 to 69	1,095	857	182	301	332	42	48
Aged 70 and over	49	155	58	47	46	4	3
All aged 16 and over	20,850	7,103	1,029	2,506	3,112	456	1,517

[1] Based on respondents' self-classification of their main job as either full-time or part-time.
[2] The weekly hour figures shown relate to the total hours usually worked in an individuals main job, rounded to the nearest hour.
[3] Number of unemployed people measured using the internationally agreed definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
Note:
The estimates are grossed using population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

Employment: Disabled

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his most recent estimate is of the number of people with a registered disability in employment. [200600]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the most recent estimate of the number of people with a registered disability in employment. [200600]

The Disabled Persons Register used to be maintained by the government under the now defunct Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 came into force in 1996 and ended the facility for disabled people to be registered as such.

Statistics on workers with health problems or disabilities are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). For the reason mentioned above, people who are "registered disabled" cannot be identified but a similar measure is available, as follows. For the three months ending December 2007 there were an estimated 3.5 million people of working age in employment in the UK with a long-term health problem or disability which either substantially limited their day-to-day activities or affected the kind or amount of work they could do, or both.

Working age refers to men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

It should be noted that the estimate provided is weighted to population estimates consistent with those published in 2003. Reweighted analyses using the latest population estimates, published in summer 2007, will available from 14 May 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200219]

Mr. Watson: My Department currently provides an occupational health advisory service for staff which may be regarded as health and social care paid for out of public funds for the purposes of the Health and Social Care Bill.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 593W, on industrial health and safety, what the incident reported in 10 Downing Street between April 2006 and March 2007 was; whether it involved *(a)* an injury, *(b)* a disease and *(c)* a dangerous occurrence; and how many of those affected were (i) civil servants, (ii) special advisers and (iii) Ministers. [198174]

Mr. Watson: The incident related to the use of a drilling machine by a sub-contractor working on behalf of the Cabinet Office and was recorded as a near-miss/dangerous occurrence under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. No injuries were suffered by any person.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office paid to JPMorgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199588]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has not made any payments to JPMorgan since 1997.

Low Incomes: Taxation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what research the Social Exclusion Unit has undertaken on the effects of the tax system on low-income households. [203805]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 694.

Lung Cancer: Death

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the mortality rate was for lung cancer on Merseyside in the last year for which figures are available. [201618]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mortality rate was for lung cancer on Merseyside in the last year for which figures are available. (201618)

The age-standardised mortality rate[1] for Merseyside metropolitan county[2], where lung cancer was the underlying cause of death[3], was 57 per 100,000 population in 20064 (the latest year available).

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population.

Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[3] Cause of death for lung cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C33-C34.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered 2006.

Manufacturing Industries: Statistics

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effect on the quality of labour market statistical information from *(a)* the manufacturing industry and *(b)* the furniture industry of the reduction in the sample size for the Monthly Production Inquiry. [201982]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the assessment of the effect on the quality of labour market statistical information from (a) the manufacturing industry and (b) the furniture industry of the reduction in sample size of the Monthly Production Inquiry (MPI). (201982)

The MPI collects turnover and employment information from businesses in Great Britain, which is used mainly for the compilation of National Accounts and Labour Market Statistics.

Monthly series for employee jobs in the manufacturing sector are published on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website. In March 2008, when ONS published estimates for January 2008, the MPI sample of businesses was reduced by around 10 per cent, as part of a wider ONS efficiency programme and to meet ONS' targets to reduce the burden it places on business. The sample was reallocated across the sample cells (defined by business size-bands and industries) to make the best use of the survey information. This offset the quality impact of reducing the sample size and enabled us to meet our aim of maintaining the quality of estimates at the aggregate level. At the more detailed level, some industries gained in quality at the expense of others.

Sampling errors are a key measure of survey quality, and were estimated to inform the sample changes and assess the impact on quality. The coefficient of variation is simply the sampling error given as a percentage of the actual estimate, which allows for a relative measure of error for comparative purposes. Please note that estimates of sampling error are themselves subject to a margin of uncertainty.

(a) The estimate of GB employee jobs in manufacturing in January 2008 was 2,806 thousand. The previous coefficient of variation of 1.2 per cent gave us 95 per cent confidence that the estimate was between 2773 and 2839 thousand. The changes resulted in a small increase in precision, with a coefficient of variation of 1.1 per cent, giving us 95 per cent confidence that the estimate was between 2776 and 2836 thousand.

(b) The estimate of GB employee jobs series in furniture manufacturing in January 2008 was 102 thousand. The previous coefficient of variation of 5.9 per cent gave us 95 per cent confidence that the estimate was between 96 and 108 thousand. The changes resulted in a small decrease in precision, with a coefficient of variation of 6.9 per cent, giving us 95 per cent confidence that the estimate was between 95 and 109 thousand.

Migration Statistics

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what additional resources are being made available to the Office for National Statistics to undertake the work-plan it has recommended to improve migration estimates. [199298]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question on what additional resources are being made available to the Office for National Statistics to undertake the Workplan it has recommended to improve migration estimates. (199298)

The statistical work programme for the next four year period is being finalised and will be published shortly. ONS will also be making a related announcement that will provide the details of the migration statistics improvement programme.

NHS Statistics

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information was made available, and when, to Ministers in his Department on the Department of Health's NHS quarterly in-patient and out-patient waiting times statistics' failure against the six criteria of clarity, accuracy, objectivity, professionalism, use of simple language and ease of use; and what representations have been made to his Department by the Office of National Statistics on this matter. [202771]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what information had been available, and when, to Ministers on the Department of Health's NHS quarterly inpatient and outpatient waiting times statistics' failure against the six criteria of clarity, accuracy, objectivity, professionalism, use of simple language and ease of use; and what representation had been made to his Department by the Office of National Statistics on this matter. (202771)

Statistical Heads of Profession in the relevant Departments, the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, and I as his Chief Executive, all received a copy of the Statistics Commission's 39th Report which was published on 13 March 2008 and entitled 'Releasing Official Statistics: A Review of Statistical First Releases'. Heads of Profession in other Departments will have informed their Ministers as appropriate. That report described the Commission's recent review of a sample of statistical releases issued by the Government Statistical Service against six key criteria relating to release practices. Included in the Commission's sample was the Department of Health's NHS quarterly Inpatient and Outpatient Waiting Times release. The Head of Profession for Statistics in the Department of Health wrote to the National Statistician at the time indicating that remedial measures would be taken where appropriate. It is now the case that commentary will be included with all Department of Health statistical releases. Additionally, and once the Authority's statutory Head of Assessment is in place, the Authority will consider when and how it will assess this release against its Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Office for National Statistics: Bird and Bird

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on *(a)* legal and *(b)* other advice given to the Office for National Statistics by Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 2005. [201643]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how much was spent on (a) legal and (b) other advice given to the Office for National Statistics by Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 2005. (201643)

The Office for National Statistics has spent nothing on either legal or other advice from Bird and Bird Solicitors since 2005.

Older Workers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged *(a)* 50 to 55, *(b)* 56 to 60 and *(c)* 61 to 65 years (i) are in full-time work,

(ii) work for more than 30 hours per week, but not full-time, (iii) work for between 20 and 30 hours per week, (iv) work for between 10 and 20 hours per week and (v) work for fewer than 10 hours per week. [203480]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many people aged *(a)* 50 to 55, *(b)* 56 to 60 and *(c)* 61 to 65 years (i) are in full time work, (ii) work for more than 30 hours per week, but not full time, (iii) work for between 20 and 30 hours per week, (iv) work for between 10 and 20 hours per week and (v) work for fewer than 10 hours per week. (203480)

The attached table gives estimates of the number of people in full-time and part-time employment for the categories requested for the three month period ending December 2007.

It should be noted that the estimates provided are weighted to population estimates consistent with those published in 2003. Reweighted analyses using the latest population estimates, published in summer 2007, will be available from 14 May 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People in full-time and part-time[1] employment, by age group, three months ending December 2007, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	In employment					
			Part-time[1]			
Age group	*Full-time[1]*	*Part-time[1]*	*Less than 10 hours per week[2]*	*10 to 19 hours per week[2]*	*20 to 30 hours per week[2]*	*More than 30 hours per week[2]*
50 to 55	2,701	758	63	227	394	75
56 to 60	1,728	714	100	224	343	48
61 to 65	719	510	102	183	199	26
All aged 16 and over	20,850	7,103	1,029	2,506	3,112	456

[1] Based on respondents' self-classification of their main job as either full-time or part-time
[2] The weekly hour figures shown relate to the total hours usually worked in an individuals main job, rounded to the nearest hour.
The estimates are grossed using population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

Prostate Cancer

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1056W, on prostate cancer, how many diagnoses of prostate cancer there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [201666]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many diagnoses of prostate cancer there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* by each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [201666]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer are for the year 2005. Figures for 1997 to 2005 for *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority area were given in the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1056W. Figures for *(a)* England and *(c)* each primary care trust area for the same period are given in the table below.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of prostate[1], males: England, and Primary Care Organisations grouped within Strategic Health Authorities[2,3] 1997-2005

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
England	19,878	20,375	22,203	24,256	27,380	27,777	27,672	29,406	28,886
North East SHA									
County Durham	180	206	174	202	248	232	263	247	247
Darlington	47	46	66	47	39	69	57	54	47
Gateshead	74	98	114	94	115	126	120	100	148
Hartlepool	34	36	43	40	47	45	60	46	36
Middlesbrough	77	70	77	71	83	48	95	86	103
Newcastle	77	101	116	152	126	181	127	121	91
North Tees	42	63	82	81	87	88	75	72	79
North Tyneside	72	74	92	126	134	122	141	125	106
Northumberland	91	146	157	161	248	196	194	178	229
Redcar and Cleveland	64	52	93	101	84	83	110	94	97
South Tyneside	45	47	57	49	51	73	76	59	64
Sunderland Teaching	84	124	158	119	145	126	157	139	156
North West SHA									
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	54	72	76	109	138	131	134	191	209

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of prostate[1], males: England, and Primary Care Organisations grouped within Strategic Health Authorities [2,3] 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Blackburn with Darwen	44	43	62	61	68	57	68	66	59
Blackpool	58	70	69	72	84	112	141	132	90
Bolton	88	94	84	86	164	115	104	167	142
Bury	65	68	77	68	100	126	100	123	136
Central and Eastern Cheshire	128	162	222	256	280	268	281	313	282
Central Lancashire	205	193	193	222	252	226	255	331	379
Cumbria	204	198	189	232	249	281	222	243	299
East Lancashire	164	160	186	231	236	201	226	214	232
Halton and St. Helens	107	118	123	81	123	130	135	173	143
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	52	81	78	102	116	97	114	123	130
Knowsley	46	40	45	57	58	78	68	111	74
Liverpool	136	145	168	149	194	185	191	306	221
Manchester	139	124	133	132	174	164	152	180	205
North Lancashire	170	197	174	154	243	206	247	301	263
Oldham	67	84	70	88	107	108	131	185	171
Salford	97	77	72	88	69	73	109	118	126
Sefton	108	101	128	128	151	159	174	267	228
Stockport	141	117	134	155	195	191	177	205	228
Tameside and Glossop	93	108	107	114	114	131	128	159	146
Trafford	113	112	121	128	128	150	136	182	138
Warrington	69	60	48	78	93	70	66	73	61
Western Cheshire	87	76	165	175	175	139	152	158	177
Wirral	131	140	124	154	151	144	131	158	166
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA									
Barnsley	75	68	69	79	78	111	105	116	120
Bradford and Airedale	118	132	151	181	211	208	199	221	212
Calderdale	66	76	73	84	101	67	86	111	111
Doncaster	105	100	111	121	138	103	127	133	113
East Riding of Yorkshire	144	147	151	167	180	205	222	235	242
Hull	74	102	87	93	112	106	109	145	116
Kirklees	167	142	131	143	151	169	177	197	171
Leeds	277	271	300	318	390	316	384	406	364
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	59	54	62	74	108	116	99	75	89
North Lincolnshire	76	61	82	72	67	90	71	77	73
North Yorkshire and York	290	358	349	484	529	525	546	607	575
Rotherham	66	58	47	84	75	90	62	85	79
Sheffield	204	104	182	320	338	289	265	294	277
Wakefield District	136	143	128	151	152	203	186	205	186
East Midlands SHA									
Bassetlaw	47	34	35	42	43	52	61	37	60
Derby City	82	65	86	107	116	118	120	120	144
Derbyshire County	241	260	305	343	380	416	381	400	430
Leicester City	65	63	84	103	98	111	89	106	95
Leicestershire County and Rutland	195	183	260	329	331	295	328	412	442
Lincolnshire	283	340	350	359	441	453	511	559	612
Northamptonshire	224	273	286	330	385	405	346	352	432
Nottingham City	98	87	88	88	75	61	44	115	98
Nottinghamshire County	218	214	248	215	236	208	206	305	295

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of prostate[1], males: England, and Primary Care Organisations grouped within Strategic Health Authorities [2,3] 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
West Midlands SHA									
Birmingham East and North	175	145	168	174	257	277	256	289	233
Coventry Teaching	128	135	129	160	171	179	164	193	194
Dudley	93	112	128	121	148	156	198	137	187
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	88	102	87	90	113	124	128	143	112
Herefordshire	81	72	76	104	118	107	101	112	108
North Staffordshire	85	78	79	78	122	86	104	85	104
Sandwell	109	116	166	143	150	187	157	126	132
Shropshire County	158	166	158	187	206	219	211	204	218
Solihull	109	123	119	139	154	181	148	188	155
South Birmingham	139	139	158	166	236	221	221	221	220
South Staffordshire	198	206	274	297	297	346	377	434	393
Stoke on Trent	80	73	74	94	102	93	117	91	104
Telford and Wrekin	54	58	62	57	61	72	81	70	66
Walsall Teaching	90	96	97	111	146	173	147	168	193
Warwickshire	193	263	265	327	325	333	286	337	308
Wolverhampton City	90	109	104	141	143	157	156	138	174
Worcestershire	215	254	267	334	327	324	397	441	449
East of England SHA									
Bedfordshire	114	136	148	142	191	180	189	192	183
Cambridgeshire	222	183	249	292	328	361	354	351	415
East and North Hertfordshire	192	204	241	277	240	215	241	304	361
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	89	113	137	127	158	152	153	132	109
Luton	45	35	45	56	48	53	45	74	76
Mid Essex	124	147	160	147	191	149	190	145	203
Norfolk	328	350	393	474	500	655	521	581	531
North East Essex	103	120	120	202	221	193	180	140	207
Peterborough	46	60	73	81	81	95	77	78	75
South East Essex	185	161	160	206	230	203	227	211	177
South West Essex	166	135	129	165	205	190	208	197	183
Suffolk	319	280	330	324	368	385	447	419	394
West Essex	113	155	165	198	221	220	201	197	229
West Hertfordshire	201	187	259	247	210	219	161	143	310
London SHA									
Barking and Dagenham	74	75	84	74	80	72	63	70	63
Barnet	92	130	150	128	140	150	127	140	134
Bexley	102	111	108	99	102	111	92	102	79
Brent Teaching	91	112	116	112	116	124	124	126	127
Bromley	80	86	104	99	122	149	127	96	87
Camden	79	69	70	50	75	98	71	57	83
City and Hackney Teaching	82	68	68	67	84	87	84	87	74
Croydon	123	105	111	121	148	193	166	170	224
Ealing	104	103	113	96	101	102	132	114	121
Enfield	101	94	106	112	123	127	123	120	112
Greenwich Teaching	82	84	89	107	86	75	75	84	81
Hammersmith and Fulham	36	40	41	53	69	33	70	62	75
Haringey Teaching	74	63	65	51	90	72	77	90	98
Harrow	83	79	91	86	78	71	112	92	128
Havering	109	112	122	136	155	167	155	188	141
Hillingdon	99	117	79	87	80	89	107	111	92
Hounslow	53	49	45	62	63	60	69	59	58
Islington	79	64	61	65	74	55	54	75	67
Kensington and Chelsea	56	58	55	73	67	67	65	70	59

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of prostate[1], males: England, and Primary Care Organisations grouped within Strategic Health Authorities [2,3] 1997-2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Kingston	72	59	73	74	82	87	83	81	68
Lambeth	89	81	85	102	108	116	116	101	109
Lewisham	91	99	88	119	139	134	91	105	75
Newham	78	69	61	73	59	65	73	72	53
Redbridge	102	109	113	104	121	90	108	92	83
Richmond and Twickenham	71	68	70	63	70	104	76	75	66
Southwark	59	63	102	101	95	94	90	85	80
Button and Merton	140	156	146	189	196	168	179	187	148
Tower Hamlets	57	59	66	41	55	57	67	39	41
Waltham Forest	68	82	83	50	62	67	83	49	61
Wandsworth	106	114	109	109	138	155	125	127	112
Westminster	61	83	68	94	96	76	78	86	76
South East Coast SHA									
Brighton and Hove City	122	90	130	143	120	106	98	106	98
East Sussex Downs and Weald	234	207	249	231	235	224	184	215	216
Eastern and Coastal Kent	304	310	330	292	344	366	395	405	402
Hastings and Rother	93	94	91	93	82	130	110	98	97
Medway	98	87	81	81	108	122	103	106	126
Surrey	517	488	524	571	573	530	517	478	522
West Kent	294	307	303	323	412	342	402	349	361
West Sussex	413	411	514	554	564	477	453	504	492
South Central SHA									
Berkshire East	142	148	154	172	231	207	258	265	221
Berkshire West	195	220	259	240	216	215	272	284	221
Buckinghamshire	210	207	266	287	356	345	324	365	292
Hampshire	502	516	561	668	738	833	725	762	733
Isle of Wight NHS	56	48	69	48	94	91	100	97	104
Milton Keynes	62	82	80	98	127	121	109	119	96
Oxfordshire	169	237	247	344	355	364	339	383	314
Portsmouth City Teaching	46	52	70	67	81	80	87	89	86
Southampton City	99	124	103	110	153	109	127	126	101
South West SHA									
Bath and North East Somerset	91	82	87	91	82	142	126	128	124
Bournemouth and Poole	233	216	233	262	272	302	268	310	290
Bristol	140	152	164	137	167	208	210	204	179
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	276	254	312	274	401	383	359	334	356
Devon	434	377	370	430	574	590	635	648	519
Dorset	336	312	308	400	439	503	469	510	423
Gloucestershire	235	250	252	309	354	301	324	373	372
North Somerset	104	112	126	107	140	151	198	179	125
Plymouth Teaching	106	115	94	36	140	110	158	191	143
Somerset	248	258	238	261	350	365	351	381	415
South Gloucestershire	98	83	109	109	108	156	166	149	138
Swindon	54	58	57	70	57	102	71	86	109
Torbay	81	67	71	85	88	78	106	106	121
Wiltshire	193	199	217	255	273	351	387	390	368

[1] Malignant neoplasm of prostate is defined as code C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] Based on NHS boundaries as of October 2006.
[3] Each primary care organisation (PCO) is listed under the strategic health authority (SHA) to which it reports. The 152 primary care organisations include 148 primary care trusts (PCTs), and 4 care organisations (COs). The PCOs are not all coterminous with SHAs?see Annex C footnotes at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/health_areas.asp
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Public Appointments Commissioner: Stratagem

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what payments the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments made to Stratagem in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose in each case. [202289]

Mr. Watson: I understand that the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments has made no payments to Strategem in the last five years.

Self-Employed: North East

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many self-employed people worked in the construction industry in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [202455]

Mr. Watson: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many self-employed people worked in the construction industry in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. (202455)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people aged 16 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK who were self employed in the construction industry in each year since 1997. Estimates are obtained from the annual LFS for each 12 month period from 1997 to 2004 ending in February. For time series comparisons, the APS estimates from 2005 to 2007 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in March, but the most recently released estimate is also included, which covers the 12 month period ending in September 2007.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

In order to produce estimates for small geographical areas, APS and annual LFS estimates are provided based on survey microdata. It should be noted that the estimate provided is weighted to population estimates consistent with those published in 2003. Reweighted analysis using the latest population estimates, published in summer 2007, will be available from 14 May 2008.

Table 1: Number of self-employed people in the construction industry in Jarrow, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK

Thousand

12 months ending	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*UK*
February 1997	[1]—	[1]—	15	111
February 1998	[1]—	1	20	681
February 1999	[1]	1	20	668
February 2000	[1]—	1	16	643
February 2001	[2]—	1	13	653
February 2002	1	1	14	694
February 2003	1	1	18	725
February 2004	[2]—	1	18	787
March 2005	1	1	19	816
March 2006	1	1	23	820

Table 1: Number of self-employed people in the construction industry in Jarrow, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK

Thousand

12 months ending	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*UK*
March 2007	[2]—	1	24	842
September 2007	1	1	24	838

[1] Sample size too small to provide estimates
[2] Less than 500
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey & Annual Population Survey

Skin Cancer

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged *(a)* three to nine, *(b)* 10 to 19, *(c)* 20 to 29, *(d)* 30 to 39, *(e)* 40 to 49, *(f)* 50 to 59 and *(e)* 60 years and over have been diagnosed with skin cancer in each of the last five years. [202750]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged (a) three to nine, (b) 10 to 19, (c) 20 to 29, (d) 30 to 39, (e) 40 to 49, (f) 50 to 59 and (g) 60 years and over have been diagnosed with skin cancer in each of the last five years. [202750]

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin registered in England are for the year 2005. Figures for 2001-2005, by age group, are given in the table below.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1], by sex and age group, England, 2001-05

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Males					
3-9	0	4	0	0	0
10-19	11	12	10	17	27
20-29	113	106	98	116	118
30-39	270	277	271	306	315
40-49	398	403	397	489	487
50-59	538	577	602	603	725
60 and over	1,455	1,542	1,666	1,776	1,991
Total 3+	2,785	2,921	3,044	3,307	3,663
Females					
3-9	0	3	3	1	2
10-19	28	19	23	38	41
20-29	234	240	186	225	282
30-39	452	450	513	515	537
40-49	588	510	565	644	672
50-59	678	744	749	767	772
60 and over	1,600	1,727	1,791	1,866	2,054
Total 3+	3,580	3,693	3,830	4,056	4,360
Persons					
3-9	0	7	3	1	2
10-19	39	31	33	55	68

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1], by sex and age group, England, 2001-05

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
20-29	347	346	284	341	400
30-39	722	727	784	821	852
40-49	986	913	962	1,133	1,159
50-59	1,216	1,321	1,351	1,370	1,497
60 and over	3,055	3,269	3,457	3,642	4,045
Total 3+	6,365	6,614	6,874	7,363	8,023

[1] Malignant melanoma of skin is coded to C43 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Unemployment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many and what proportion of households included no-one in full-time employment *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by (i) constituency, (ii) local authority and (iii) region; [203278]

(2) how many and what proportion of people lived in households with no-one in full-time employment *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by (i) constituency, (ii) local authority and (iii) region. [203279]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your two parliamentary questions. The first asks how many and what proportion of households included no-one in full-time employment *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by (i) constituency, (ii) local authority and (iii) region (203278). The second asks how many and what proportion of people lived in households where no-one was in full time employment *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by (i) constituency, (ii) local authority and (iii) region (203279).

Estimates in the attached tables are provided from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). There is currently no annual household dataset, so the figures are given for the April-June quarter to be consistent with those published in the 'Work and worklessness among households' First Release (see web link

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0807.pdf).

A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Data for English and Welsh parliamentary constituencies has been provided for 1999 as data are not available for 1997. Data for Scottish parliamentary constituencies are only available for 2007.

The household datasets (like the main quarterly LFS microdatasets) are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in February and March 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the headline LFS series.

Figures for households are based on working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Unemployment: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were unemployed in *(a)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(b)* the (i) Chase, (ii) Enfield Highway, (iii) Enfield Lock, (iv) Highlands, (v) Southbury, (vi) Town and (vii) Turkey Street wards in the borough in each of the last 10 years. [202864]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were unemployed in (a) the London Borough of Enfield and (b) the following wards in the borough: (i) Chase, (ii) Enfield Highway, (iii) Enfield Lock, (iv) Highlands, (v) Southbury, (vi) Town and (vii) Turkey Street in each of the last 10 years. [202864]

The Office for National Statistics produces estimates of total unemployment for unitary and local authorities, from a statistical model, following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows model based estimates of the total number of unemployed, for the Enfield borough. Estimates are obtained for each 12 month period from 1997 to 2004 ending in February. For time series comparisons, the estimates from 2005 to 2007 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in March, but the most recently released estimate is also included, which covers the 12 months ending in September 2007. Corresponding estimates for local government wards are not available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

It should be noted that the estimate provided is weighted to population estimates consistent with those published in 2003. Reweighted analyses using the latest population estimates, published in summer 2007, will be available from 14 May 2008.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2, attached, shows the total numbers of people resident in the Enfield borough and the specified wards, claiming JSA. At ward level, data is only available for periods from 2004. In addition, March 2008 data has been included as being the latest data available.

Table 1: Number of persons unemployed in Enfield borough for the last 10 years.

12 months ending	Thousand Unemployed
February 1997	12
February 1998	10
February 1999	10
February 2000	9
February 2001	9
February 2002	8
February 2003	9
February 2004	9
March 2005	9
March 2006	12
March 2007	10
September 2007	9

Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Number of persons claiming Job Seekers Allowance .

	Enfield Borough	*Chase*	*Enfield Highway*	*Enfield Lock*	*Highlands*	*Southbury*	*Town*	*Turkey Street*
February 1997	10,260	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 1998	7,869	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 1999	7,442	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 2000	6,898	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 2001	5,744	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 2002	5,501	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 2003	5,905	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 2004	6,081	190	378	340	140	310	159	284
March 2005	6,077	208	347	379	137	262	150	298
March 2006	6,732	212	398	362	165	275	155	315
March 2007	6,153	185	355	347	131	290	122	312
March 2008	5,220	194	328	307	130	251	123	276

n/a = data not available
Source:
DWP

Voluntary Organisations: Heywood

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what proportion of contracts awarded to third-sector organisations that provide services in the Heywood and Middleton constituency were three year contracts in the latest period for which information is available; [202913]

(2) what progress has been made towards ensuring that third-sector organisations providing services in the Heywood and Middleton constituency are awarded three-year contracts. [202915]

Phil Hope: This Government are committed to ensuring that three-year funding for third-sector organisations becomes the norm rather than the exception. I will be reporting on Government progress in meeting this funding commitment to HM Treasury on an annual basis. The first report will be made in the autumn 2008 and will be laid before Parliament. It is expected that local authorities will be making reports on three-year funding from 2009 onwards.

The information requested is currently not recorded centrally.

Voluntary Organisations: Pensions

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many third-sector organisations providing public services have provided *(a)* a contracted out, final-salary based defined benefit pension scheme or *(b)* a defined contribution scheme with employer contributions of at least 6 per cent. to new starters working on those contracts; [203320]

(2) how many third-sector organisations providing public services have stakeholder pension schemes for new starters on those contracts; [203321]

(3) how many third-sector organisations providing public services who have stakeholder pension schemes for new starters on those contracts match employee contributions of more than 6 per cent. [203322]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally. Where public services contracts involve a transfer of staff from a public sector organisation to a private or third-sector service provider (or a subsequent retender of that contract where TUPE applies), the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Public Sector Service Contracts may apply. Where the code does apply, it will be for the relevant Government Department to monitor the implementation of the code, including in relation to pensions provision by service providers.

Voluntary Organisations: Standards

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what steps the Office of the Third Sector has taken to monitor *(a)* the application of and *(b)* compliance with the code of practice on workforce matters designed to prevent the development of a two tier workforce in public service contracts outsourced to the third sector; [203317]

(2) what steps the Office of the Third Sector has taken to assess the effects of the codes of practice on workforce matters designed to prevent the development of a two-tier workforce in public service contracts outsourced to the third sector; [203318]

(3) whether the Third Sector Action Plan will be used to promote adherence to the Best Value Code of Practice on Workforce Matters and the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Workforce Matters. [203323]

Phil Hope: Public-sector organisations oversee the way in which service providers implement the code, where appropriate. If employees or trade unions feel that the code is not being applied correctly, they are invited in the first instance to alert the relevant public sector organisation. They are also supplied with contact details to seek advice in cases in which they consider that the public-sector organisation has failed to meet its responsibilities In addition, it is part of the ongoing work programme of the Public Services Forum to review the implementation of the code. This review will be undertaken in partnership by trade unions, the third and private sectors and Government.

Given these existing channels for concerns about the code to be raised and acted upon, the Office of the Third Sector has not taken steps to monitor application of, compliance with or the effectiveness of the code on workforce matters. "Partnership in Public Services", the cross-Government public service action plan, includes 18 key actions to reduce the barriers to third-sector involvement in public service delivery, and does not include promotion of the code.

Widowed People

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many widowers alive today had spouses who died before 1972. [203901]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many widowers alive today had spouses who died before 1972. (203901).

The information you requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Cars: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of pollution generated in the process of manufacturing a standard family car. [204203]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA has not undertaken any work to quantify the pollution associated with car manufacture. However, the King Review gives estimates of the carbon dioxide emitted at all life cycle stages. Similar information on other pollution impacts is published by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, and is also covered by the 'Environmental Improvement of Passenger Cars' report recently published by the European Commission.

Domestic Wastes: Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 491-6W, on Domestic Wastes: Contract, if he will place in the Library copies of the final reports of the research projects with the SIS codes of *(a)* WR0103, *(b)* WR0104, *(c)* WR0106, *(d)* WR0107, *(e)* WR0112, *(f)* WR0217, *(g)* WR0506, *(h)* WR0512, *(i)* WR0705 and *(j)* WR0601. [202934]

Joan Ruddock: Every research project commissioned by DEFRA is published on our website once it is complete. The following projects are completed and arrangements are in hand to place them in the House Library.

WR0107 - Modelling Impacts of Lifestyle Changes on Household Waste Arisings.

WR0112 - Understanding Household Waste Prevention Behaviour.

WR0512 - Evaluation of the Household Waste Incentives Pilot Scheme.

WR0501 - Health and Environmental Impacts of Vermin/Insects in the Context of Waste Management Operations.

The following projects are not yet complete, but will be made available as soon as final reports have been accepted for publication:

WR0103 - Household Waste Prevention Policy Side Research Programme.

WR0104 - Lifestyle Scenarios: Futures for Waste Composition.

WR0106 - Achieving Household Waste Prevention and Promoting Sustainable Resource Use through Product Service Systems.

WR0506 - Benefits of Third Sector Involvement in Waste Management.

Although co-funded by DEFRA, the following projects were commissioned by other bodies and reports for these studies can therefore be obtained from them.

WR0217 - Assessment of Occupational Health and Safety Risks of Waste Collection and Handling Systems (Commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive).

WR0705 - Updated Lifecycle Study on Reusable and Disposable Nappies (Commissioned by the Environment Agency).

EU Law

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to implement *(a)* EC Regulation 166/2006, *(b)* EC Regulation 1882/2002, *(c)* Council Directive 96/61/EC, *(d)* EU Directive 2003/87/EC and *(e)* Commission Directive 2003/35. [203722]

Joan Ruddock: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Steps taken to implement EC Regulation 166/2006

The EC regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the establishment of a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) and amending Council directives 91/689/EEC and 96/61/EC was agreed on 18 January 2006 and came into force on 24 February 2006. PRTRs are publicly accessible compilations of data that describe the releases of substances to the environment and waste transfers. The E-PRTR regulation is a directly binding piece of European legislation and does therefore not need to be transposed into domestic law. In August 2007 DEFRA published a consultation document concerning among other issues proposals on designating competent authorities, enforcement, reporting requirements and quality assessment of the collected emissions data. We have recently published the Summary of Responses received during the consultation period.

(b) Steps taken to implement EC Regulation 1882/2002

This regulation is published and updated daily and contains, for information, the Standard Import Values for determining the entry prices, on import into the EU, for certain fruit and vegetables. These values are used for customs tariff purposes by HM Revenue and Customs and importers. The regulation does not require implementation.

(c) and (e) Steps taken to implement Council Directive 96/61/EC and Commission Directive 2003/35

The Council directive 96/61/EC on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) was agreed on 24 September 1996 and came into force on 30 October 1996. The IPPC directive provided a transitional period from 30 October 1999 to 30 October 2007 during which

existing installations could be brought under the requirements of the directive. New installations had to comply from the outset.

In England and Wales the IPPC directive was transposed through the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000. The PPC regulations were introduced under the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999.

The parts of the Public Participation directive 2003/35/EC which amended the IPPC directive and came into force on 25 June 2003 were transposed in England and Wales on that date through the PPC regulations. This directive provides an increase in the already high level of public participation in the process by which regulators consider applications for environmental permits to operate new or substantially changed industrial installations subject to the IPPC directive.

From 6 April 2008 the PPC regulations have been superseded by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

The IPPC directive and its subsequent amendments have since been codified and repealed by directive 2008/1/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2008 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (codified version).

(d) Steps taken to implement EU Directive 2003/87/EC:

The EU emissions trading directive 2003/87/EC was agreed on 22 July 2003 and came into force on 25 October 2003. The directive has been transposed into UK legislation through the greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme regulations.

On 24 May 2005 the UK published the approved National Allocation Plan (NAP) and installation-level allocations for Phase I of the EU ETS, which ran from 2005 to 2007. The approved NAP and final allocation decision for phase ii of the scheme, running from 2008 to 2012, were published on 16 March 2007.

On 23 January 2008, the European Commission published its draft proposals for the review of the EU ETS required under article 30 of the EU directive on the EU ETS. The role of the review is to develop the EU ETS in a positive way post-2012 and learn from experiences so far. The UK welcomed the European Commission's ambitious proposals for tackling climate change and delivering a low-carbon economy in Europe. The UK will now be entering into negotiations with other member states and the Commission and will also be releasing a formal consultation soon. Once agreed by the European Council and European Parliament, the changes will need to be transposed into UK law.

Fly-Tipping: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly-tipping there were in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years; and how many people were prosecuted in each such year for such offences. [203383]

Joan Ruddock: Data are only available from 2004 onwards.

I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library of the House showing the number of fly-tipping incidents and prosecutions recorded in each local authority by local authorities on Flycapture for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Following the release of the 2006-07 Flycapture statistics on 9 October 2007, this information has been sent to all MPs. It is also available to download electronically on DEFRA'S Flycapture website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Food: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effects of kerbside food waste collections on levels of household composting. [202953]

Joan Ruddock: Separate collections of food waste are relatively novel in the UK. In the 19 trials being conducted by the Waste and Resources Action Programme, early indications are that public participation in collections is of the order of 60-80 per cent. Of the food waste being put out for disposal around 70 per cent. is being captured by the food waste collection. The remainder is being disposed of in the residual bin. This excludes any food waste that may be home-composted. Many of the trials are being conducted in urban areas where the uptake of home composting is low as properties have either very small or no gardens. However, a customer survey in some of the trial areas indicated that between 58 per cent. and 74 per cent. of respondents considered that the availability of a food waste collection had not changed what they put in their home composting bin.

WRAP proposes to continue to monitor the food waste collection trials, and will be reporting on its findings in due course.

Some local authorities are trialling the collection of food waste with garden waste collections. The partial evidence available so far suggests that these arrangements are not generally successful in capturing food waste from the residual waste stream, Furthermore, separate research carried out by WRAP in 2007 indicates that the existence of kerbside garden/organic collections has limited impact on levels of home composting by home composting households. The main reasons given are:

1. They consider home composting to be more environmentally friendly and divert as much via that route as they can, using collection services only for items that they decide are unsuitable for home composting (pernicious weeds, large and woody items etc.)

2. As they are keen gardeners they want to make as much compost as possible, and will use the collection service only for items that don't readily compost

3. At certain times of the year their gardens produce an excess of certain waste materials and they will consider using the kerbside service to get rid of this excess material.

The inference is that food waste collected with garden waste has little overall impact on the amount of material which is home-composted.

Nature Conservation: EU Law

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what shadow price per hectare of salt marsh he has used for the purpose of implementation of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. [204622]

Joan Ruddock: A key mechanism for delivery of this Directive is the flagship agri-environment scheme, environmental stewardship. Shadow prices are not used to determine payment rates for this scheme as they are derived from the income forgone by the landowner in carrying out the prescribed management. The payments for salt marsh options available under the environmental stewardship higher level scheme, were, in common with all the other options, calculated in 2004. There are a number of options available ranging from the maintenance of coastal saltmarsh (30/ha) to the creation of inter-tidal/saline habitat on arable land (at 700/ha).

Regeneration: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what funding allocated by his Department for the Castle Point Regeneration Partnership is planned to be spent. [203642]

Joan Ruddock: The Castle Point Regeneration Partnership includes various bodies such as the Department for Communities and Local Government, the East of England Development Agency, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Essex county council and Castle Point borough council which contribute funding to the project. Neither DEFRA nor Natural England has set aside funds for the Castle Point Regeneration Partnership.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has powers to sanction local authorities that do not offer waste disposal free of charge to schools and prisons. [202485]

Joan Ruddock: The duty on a local authority to collect household waste is contained in section 45(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Waste from schools and prisons is classified by schedule 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 (CWR) as household waste. Local authorities have no powers to charge for the disposal of household waste.

There are no powers in the EPA for DEFRA or the Secretary of State to sanction any authorities that charge for the disposal of household waste.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1373W, on Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges, if he will place in the Library a copy of the August letter to local authorities on section 46 powers. [204578]

Joan Ruddock: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Waste Management: Prisons

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations his Department has received from local authorities on Schedule 2 waste obligations to collect rubbish from prisons without imposing a charge. [202944]

Joan Ruddock: Since January 2008 DEFRA has received four letters from local authorities and one from the Local Government Association (LGA) asking the Government to consider the right of Schedule 2 waste producers to free waste disposal.

The letter from the LGA and my reply to it have both been published on the LGA's website.

Waste Management: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the inclusion of *(a)* incineration and *(b)* recycling facilities in projects undertaken as part of his Department's waste private finance initiative funding scheme; and if he will make a statement. [202946]

Joan Ruddock: Local authorities are best placed and responsible for deciding the most appropriate waste management facilities for their areas. Recovering energy from waste is a sustainable option for residual waste that would otherwise go to landfill. It is important that plans for energy from waste facilities emerge out of local waste strategies, so that all options for reuse, recycling and composting can be explored first.

The Government wish to encourage local authorities to consider using anaerobic digestion. Other than this, we do not generally think it appropriate to express a preference for one technology over another. Any given technology is (where applicable) more beneficial if both heat and electricity can be recovered. Particular attention should therefore be given to the siting of plant to maximise opportunities for Combined Heat and Power.

The current Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) criteria were issued in May 2006. Projects must meet these criteria in order to be considered for PFI credits. The criteria aim to ensure that PFI credits are allotted to projects that are value for money and enable the investment in residual waste infrastructure necessary if the demanding targets in the Landfill Directive and Waste Strategy for England 2007 are to be met.

The following criteria are included:

2. PFI credits are awarded to authorities primarily to deliver increased diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill. Proposals should demonstrate how the schemes:

contribute to or complement longer-term national targets for recycling and composting as well as diversion of biodegradable and other municipal waste from landfill, indicating the amount of biodegradable and other municipal waste expected to be diverted from landfill over the whole life of the project;

support or complement the authorities' plans for recycling set out in their Municipal Waste Management Strategies.

5. The use of residual waste treatment options involving recovery, including energy from waste solutions, will have an integral role in treating the waste we cannot 'design out', re-use or recycle. Such options should be considered while also demonstrating that there is no future barrier to meeting reduction, reuse and recycling targets.

6. Proposals should demonstrate that other relevant authorities, the public, and interested parties have been consulted and that there is a broad consensus supporting a recognised long term waste management strategy which is reflected in the proposed solution.

10. Preferential consideration will be given to capital projects which focus on residual treatment plant only, including, but not limited to, Energy from Waste, Mechanical Biological Treatments and Anaerobic Digestion. The full criteria are available on the DEFRA website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anguilla: Politics and Government

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on negotiations on the constitutional future of Anguilla. [203990]

Dr. Howells: At the beginning of 2006, the Governor of Anguilla appointed a Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission to take forward Anguilla's constitutional review process. The commission reported in August 2006. Following this, a first round of constitutional talks between Anguilla and the UK, scheduled for July 2007, was postponed at the request of the Government of Anguilla to allow for greater public consultation and for the people of Anguilla to be better informed about the constitutional options. The most recent public forum was held in April 2008. The Government are awaiting the outcome of these consultations, and are available to open constitutional talks when the Government of Anguilla are ready.

Belarus: Surveillance

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* sale of covert surveillance technology by UK companies to the Belarusian security service and *(b)* use of such equipment by the Belarusian security service. [203959]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* The Government are aware of reports of meetings between UK surveillance technology companies and the authorities of Belarus. The Government are not involved in these meetings and therefore have no information about their content.

All export licence applications for military and dual use goods, including surveillance equipment, are closely examined and assessed on a case-by-case basis against Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

Where licensable surveillance equipment is concerned, particular attention is given to Criterion 2 of the Consolidated Criteria - "The respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country of final destination". The Government will not issue an export licence for any military or dual use goods where there is a clear risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression.

Cameroon: Politics and Government

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the recent change to the constitution of the Republic of Cameroon altering the limits of presidential terms for the political situation in that country. [203937]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* The amendment to the Cameroonian constitution to remove presidential term limits was passed in the Cameroonian National Assembly on 10 April. The constitution now places no restrictions on the number of terms for which a president, including the incumbent, may serve. It also accords some immunities to presidents for acts committed during their tenure and allows a longer period for the organisation of elections in the case of a presidential vacancy.

As noted in my answer of 23 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 2121W, the Government supported an EU public statement concerning the amendment of the constitution of Cameroon on 27 March. We will continue to work with EU partners. In addition, our high commission in Yaounde has raised the constitutional amendment bilaterally with a number of Cameroonian Ministers and stressed the need for urgent action to deal with the democratic deficits and other reforms that need to be addressed.

China: Falun Gong

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of China on the Falun Gong. [204367]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned by reports of the mistreatment of Falun Gong adherents in various provinces of China, particularly those detained in Re-education Through Labour (RTL) camps. We raise our concerns, over individual practitioners and for the need to reform RTL, with the Chinese Government at every appropriate opportunity. We did this most recently at the 16th round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in Beijing on 28 to 31 January.

Commonwealth: Scholarships

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report,* columns 2189-90W, on the Chevening scholarships programme, how many Commonwealth scholarships were awarded in each of the last five years. [204115]

David Miliband: The following number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded Commonwealth scholarships was awarded in each of the last five years:

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Australia	21	24	19	13	11	88
Bahamas	0	0	0	1	0	1
Brunei Darussalam	1	0	0	0	0	1
Canada	27	26	25	27	25	130
Cyprus	0	1	0	0	1	2
Malta	1	2	1	2	2	8
New Zealand	7	9	5	11	6	38
Singapore	2	0	1	2	1	6
Total	59	62	51	56	46	274

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and (c) Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204396]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not, as yet, visited the devolved Administrations in his official capacity.

East Africa: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the merits of convening a regional conference on East Africa and related countries to include Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and Kenya to discuss common objectives towards peace in that region; and if he will make a statement. [203500]

Dr. Howells: The Government will continue to work closely with countries in East Africa on regional as well as other issues. We have no plans to convene a conference of all these countries to discuss peace across the whole region. These countries, along with Djibouti, are the constituent members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). IGAD was created in 1996 as an intergovernmental body for development in the East and Horn of Africa. The African Union has also identified IGAD as one of Africa's sub-regional intergovernmental organisations that can help contribute to peace and security in Africa. The Government actively support IGAD's work to promote peace and stability across the region.

Egypt: Torture

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Egypt on the use of torture. [204361]

Dr. Howells: The Government are concerned about the use of torture by Egyptian authorities and the wider human rights situation in Egypt. I raised human rights issues directly with the visiting Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament on 21 January 2008.

In addition, on 11 March, officials from our embassy in Cairo met the Egyptian Deputy Minister for Human Rights to express our concerns over Egyptian conduct across a range of human rights areas.

We also look forward to having an active discussion with Egypt on these issues at the forthcoming EU-Egypt political sub-committee, established under the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan.

Gaza: Fuels

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Israel on fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip. [204191]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development issued a joint statement on 25 April 2008 expressing concern that fuel shortages in Gaza meant that the UN Relief and Works Agency was unable to continue much of its relief work. This left hundreds of thousands of people in need of food, water and medical supplies. A steady supply of fuel is essential for the provision of these basic services. We have urged the Government of Israel to ensure that, in line with their own public commitments, their actions do not result in humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This message was reiterated in a series of high-level meetings held in London on 2 May, involving Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad and Israeli Foreign Minister Livni.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on whether British personnel taken hostage in Iraq have passed into the custody of Iran's Revolutionary Guard; and if he will make a statement. [203875]

Dr. Howells: We have received no substantive evidence of Iranian involvement in the case of the British nationals taken hostage in Iraq, although we have seen speculative media reports. It is our policy not to discuss the operational details of the Government's response or analysis when we judge that doing so would not be in the interests of the hostages.

Pakistan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Pakistan Government on the Riaz Marsh and Muhammed Shafiq case in the Lahore Court. [203829]

Dr. Howells: We have made no representations to the Lahore Court on behalf of Mr. Muhammed Shafiq, who is no longer detained in Faisalbad jail.

We have also made no representations to the Lahore Court on behalf of Mr. Riaz Maish, who is unknown to Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials.

Russia: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Russia on the observance of civil liberties and human rights. [204326]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Sir Peter Ricketts, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Permanent Under-Secretary, raised rule of law issues with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Titov during his visit to Moscow on 22 to 24 April.

The UK holds annual bilateral human rights discussions with Russia. These were last held in January 2007, and the next meeting is planned for later this year. We also raise our concerns through the EU/Russia human rights consultations, which were last held on 17 April.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the observance of human rights and levels of political freedom in Russia. [204327]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have a mature and frank relationship with Russia and do not shy away from making our concerns known on human rights and democracy. We want to see democracy in Russia deliver political pluralism and all its associated freedoms. We believe that an open and democratic Russia will consolidate Russia as a stable and reliable international partner for the global community.

During the parliamentary election in December 2006 and the presidential elections in March 2007, the UK, along with the EU and international observers, raised concerns about the degree of democracy exhibited throughout the election periods. Of particular concern were the unacceptable conditions Russia placed on international observers, limits to restrict the field of candidates and the lack of equal media access for opposition candidates.

According to recent reports by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, both the non-governmental organisation law and the law on extremist behaviour have been used to target and restrict certain individuals and non-governmental organisations. Media freedom and the situation facing human rights defenders are recurrent themes during both the bilateral and EU/Russia human rights dialogues. As a result, we welcome President Medvedev's focus on the need to strengthen the rule of law in Russia.

Sudan: Census

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the progress of Sudan's fifth census which began on 22 April; and what help he is offering to ensure its successful completion. [203830]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development discussed progress on the census in their meeting on 28 April with Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor. Officials from both the Government of National Unity and the Government of South Sudan have reported that the census is going well, although there have been some logistical difficulties and some communities have not co-operated with enumerators. Movements in Darfur have spoken out against the census, although initial reports suggest that enumeration has taken place in many areas of Darfur. At the UK's suggestion, language in support of the census and all parties' acceptance of the results was included in UN Security Council Resolution 1812 of 30 April for renewal of the UN Mission in Sudan mandate.

Tibet: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of China to provide access for human rights organisations to monitor the human rights situation in Tibet. [203473]

Dr. Howells: We believe that the Chinese Government should lift restrictions on access to the region which would aid an independent assessment of the situation. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised the issue of access to Tibet in his telephone call to Chinese Premier Wen on 19 March. We continue to encourage China to issue an open invitation to all UN Special Rapporteurs to visit China, including the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with EU institutions on the process of ratification of the Lisbon treaty, including in member states where the ratification process is by referendum; and if he will make a statement. [204730]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with EU institutions on a variety of issues, including the Lisbon treaty. It is up to all 27 member states to ratify the Lisbon treaty in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

So far, 13 countries have ratified the Lisbon treaty.

Only one member state (the Republic of Ireland) out of 27 member states is planning to hold a referendum. This will take place on 12 June 2008.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Irish Government on the process of ratification of the Lisbon treaty; and if he will make a statement. [204731]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have regular contact with our Irish counterparts on the full range of European issues, including the Lisbon treaty.

USA: Navy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the US naval presence in the Mediterranean sea on the surrounding regions. [202373]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The US naval presence in the Mediterranean has long had a positive and welcome stabilising effect in the region, due in part to the extent to which it has worked together closely with other allies and partners, including the UK.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what grounds each abortion took place in non-NHS hospitals or institutions at *(a)* 16 weeks, *(b)* 17 weeks, *(c)* 18 weeks, *(d)* 19 weeks, *(e)* 20 weeks, *(f)* 21 weeks, *(g)* 22 weeks, *(h)* 23 weeks and *(i)* 24 weeks gestation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [204012]

(2) To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what grounds each abortion took place in NHS hospitals at *(a)* 16 weeks, *(b)* 17 weeks, *(c)* 18 weeks, *(d)* 19 weeks, *(e)* 20 weeks, *(f)* 21 weeks, *(g)* 22 weeks, *(h)* 23 weeks and *(i)* 24 weeks gestation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [204013]

Dawn Primarolo: The information in the following table shows the grounds for abortions (at 16-24 weeks gestation) that were funded by the national health service and took place on NHS premises; funded by the NHS and took place in the private sector under contract 'NHS Agency'); and were not funded by the NHS.

Abortions by gestation 16-24 weeks, grounds and purchaser, residents of England and Wales, 1997-2006

		16	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*[1]	*24*
2006										
NHS hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	459	295	[2]276	[3]175	[4]182	[5]212	[6]152	[7]128	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	110	114	[2]—	[3]—	[4]—	[5]—	[6]—	[7]—	34
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	1,264	1,160	953	837	660	490	383	328	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	169	138	128	99	90	52	81	54	0
All purchasers	Section 1(1)(a) and other except Section 1(1)(d)	—	—	1,242	1,021	787	573	485	398	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	—	—	115	90	145	181	131	112	34
Total		2,002	1,707	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	34

'—' Suppressed value where a presented value, if used with previously published data, would reveal a total less than 10 (between 0 and 9).
[1] Includes 24 weeks and 0 days.
Note:
Previously published data for 'All purchasers' for 2006 for gestations of 18-24 weeks is included within this table for reference. The previous publication of these data means that NHS Hospital abortion figures cannot be shown by grounds for 18-23 weeks.

		16	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*[1]	*24*
2005										
NHS hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	436	264	118	62	37	28	28	13	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	99	121	84	85	149	183	140	102	38
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	1,250	1,069	883	812	644	417	300	175	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	187	185	136	106	95	72	71	46	0
Total		1,972	1,639	1,221	1,065	925	[2]700	539	336	38
2004										
NHS hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	502	278	132	72	42	25	25	11	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	101	108	106	103	161	163	116	100	41
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	1,251	1,383	1,046	759	542	514	519	300	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	262	229	211	91	69	76	75	52	0
Total		2,116	1,998	1,495	1,025	814	778	735	463	41

		16	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*
2003										
NHS hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	477	325	176	93	36	19	18	17	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	98	119	109	125	147	149	119	107	41
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	1,235	1,428	1,186	678	522	531	472	325	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	259	268	234	108	78	80	90	81	0
Total		2,069	2,140	1,705	1,004	783	779	699	530	41
2002										
NHS hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	569	297	186	110	68	23	9.12 144	9.12 98	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	103	93	115	97	148	161	9.12 —	9.12 —	33
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	1,178	1,238	886	578	497	438	446	341	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	289	308	234	121	69	108	121	94	0
Total		2,139	1,936	1,421	906	782	730	711	533	33
2001										
NHS Hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	530	292	148	98	52	17	10.12 95	11.12 78	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	72	112	103	103	164	143	10.12 —	11.12 —	24
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	1,035	1,096	814	502	391	440	454	308	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	325	319	253	154	133	123	149	125	0
Total		1,962	1,819	1,318	857	740	723	698	511	24
2000										
NHS Hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	612	303	193	87	43	21	17	12	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	78	105	128	145	194	146	116	90	22
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	1,021	898	727	417	338	329	337	248	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	392	345	285	207	135	146	158	125	0
Total		2,103	1,651	1,333	856	710	642	628	475	22
1999										
NHS hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	607	271	187	103	48	39	16	14	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	90	93	118	178	204	122	101	86	25
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	850	822	662	396	310	278	286	239	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	410	383	318	210	160	152	181	140	0
Total		1,957	1,569	1,285	887	722	591	584	479	25

		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23[1]	24
1998										
NHS hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	600	270	197	77	60	22	20	13	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	77	89	151	176	206	124	101	72	11
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	880	887	643	375	288	284	237	195	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	434	424	337	204	141	159	161	151	0
Total		1,991	1,670	1,328	832	695	589	519	431	11
1997										
NHS hospital	Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds except Section 1(1)(d)	554	286	179	75	38	26	13	10	0
	Section 1(1)(d)	86	111	129	184	211	144	103	61	24
NHS Agency	Section 1(1)(a) and other	781	757	575	320	183	227	210	160	0
Private	Section 1(1)(a) and other	496	456	303	258	146	156	187	144	0
Total		1,917	1,610	1,186	837	578	553	513	375	24

[1] Includes 24 weeks and 0 days.
[12] Section 1(1)(a) and other grounds is grouped with Section 1(1)(d) for gestations 22 and 23 weeks due to small numbers (between 0 and 9).
Notes:
1. Where Section 1(1)(a) is grouped with other grounds all totals for other grounds are less than 10.
2. Section 1(1)(a): that the pregnancy has not exceeded its twenty-fourth week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.
3. Section 1(1)(d): that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people receiving domiciliary care were *(a)* funded by the local authority, *(b)* privately funded and *(c)* paying an additional amount to meet the full cost of their fees in each year since 1996; [204614]

(2) how many people receiving residential care were *(a)* funded by the local authority, *(b)* privately funded and *(c)* relied on a relative or other third party to pay an additional amount to meet the full cost of their fees in each year since 1996; [204615]

(3) how many older people received *(a)* residential and *(b)* domiciliary care in each year since 1996. [204616]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are informed by the Information Centre for health and social care that information is not held centrally on the numbers of people receiving domiciliary care or residential care that is privately funded or involves the payment of an additional sum in order to meet the full cost.

The available information is shown in the following table. It shows the number of people who received domiciliary care or residential care, funded wholly or in part by councils with adult social services responsibilities as at 31 March of each year in total and for those aged 65 years or more. Information on domiciliary care services is only available from 2001. It is not possible to separate the figures into the numbers of people who received full or partial funding from the local authority for either domiciliary or residential care.

Number of people receiving care funded wholly or in part by councils with adult social services responsibilities at 31 March, England

Thousand

	Domiciliary Care[1]		*Residential Care*[1,4]	
	All ages[2]	*65 and over*	*All ages*[2]	*65 and over*
1996	—	—	[5]210	[5]169
1997	—	—	[5]236	[5]190
1998	—	—	256	204
1999	—	—	261	206
2000	—	—	265	209
2001	[3]927	635	262	205
2002	948	649	265	207
2003	975	661	284	219
2004	994	662	278	214
2005	981	642	266	205
2006	1,009	652	259	200
2007	1,023	647	250	192

[1] Data from 2003 onwards include clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.
[2] Aged 18 and over.
[3] The 'all ages' totals for domiciliary care in 2001 include the number of clients whose age was not known.
[4] Data from 2004 onwards include Boyd loophole residents.
[5] Data from 1996 and 1997 exclude supported residents in un-staffed or other non-registered accommodation.
Source:
Referral Assessments and Packages of care form P2s and SR1 form Table 1

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that recommendations on research into myalgic

encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome, such as those outlined in the guidelines recently issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, are met, with particular regard to *(a)* the cause of the illness, *(b)* the effectiveness of current intervention strategies and *(c)* identification of efficient ways to deliver domiciliary care for those who are severely affected. [203520]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 252W.

Codex Alimentarius

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what status the Codex Alimentarius has in the regulatory regime for medicines; and what assessment the Government have made of the effects of full introduction of the Codex on the regulation of natural, herbal and homeopathic medicines. [203513]

Dawn Primarolo: The Codex Alimentarius Commission was created in 1963 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to develop food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practice under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The Codex Alimentarius standards are used as a reference point for consumers, food producers and processors, national food control agencies and the international food trade.

The Codex Alimentarius is not part of the regulatory framework for medicinal products and has not therefore been taken into consideration when regulating natural, herbal and homeopathic medicinal products. However, certain excipients in medicines, such as colourings, are covered by food standards which are taken into account by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency before allowing their use in medicinal products in the United Kingdom.

Construction

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many construction projects his Department undertook in each of the last three years for which the capital cost was greater than £1.5 million; and what the combined value was of these projects; [202538]

(2) how many construction projects his Department undertook in each of the last three years for which the capital cost was less than £1.5 million; and what the combined value of these projects was. [202540]

Mr. Bradshaw: The construction of most new health facilities by national health service bodies is undertaken by means of three particular procurement methods. These are the private finance initiative (PFI) for hospital facilities, ProCure 21 to deliver public capital funded hospital facilities and local improvement finance trust developments in respect of primary care facilities that are commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs).

Information on the number and capital value of projects and the date that construction began for these three programmes is held centrally and is given in aggregated form in the table.

Details are not held centrally on construction projects undertaken by the NHS by means other than the three procurement methods identified. These are predominantly the smaller public capital funded schemes commissioned locally by NHS trusts and PCTs and which are below departmental delegated approval limits.

	Construction projects above £1.5 million		*Construction projects below £1.5 million*	
	Number	*Value (£ million)*	*Number*	*Value (£ million)*
2005-06	83	1,850	12	17
2006-07	44	2,488	3	4
2007-08	63	2,754	5	6

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in *(a)* negotiating the retention of the European Working Time Directive individual opt-out and *(b)* addressing the other issues raised by the SiMAP/Jaeger judgments. [204539]

Ann Keen: The European Working Time is a key dossier for the United Kingdom Government. The Government remain committed to the retention of the individual opt-out and a solution to the issues from the SiMAP/Jaeger judgments.

We are disappointed not to have reached an agreement in the European Union on this dossier but are hopeful that one can be found soon.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of the European Working Time Directive on *(a)* medical training and *(b)* training for surgeons; and what research his Department has considered as part of its policy formulation in this area. [204540]

Ann Keen: The Government have commissioned Sheffield University to undertake independent research on the impact of the European Working Time Directive on medical training, including a joint project with the Royal College of Surgeons to identify practical solutions for surgical training.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether negotiations are under way on an extension of the timetable for the implementation of the European Working Time Directive as it relates to NHS doctors beyond 2012. [204542]

Ann Keen: No. National health service services are planning to implement the European Working Time Directive by August 2009.

Health Services: Contracts

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he issues to primary care trusts on procedures to be followed when letting alternative

provider medical service (APMS) contracts, with particular reference to *(a)* tendering processes, *(b)* timescales, *(c)* criteria used to select the successful bidder, *(d)* per patient cost estimates and *(e)* bid scoring; what reports he has received of the tendering process conducted by Camden Primary Care Trust to run the Camden Road, Kings Cross and Brunswick Centre general practitioner practices; and if he will make a statement. [202124]

Mr. Bradshaw: In December 2007 the Department published the PCT Procurement Framework—Equitable Access to Primary Medical Care—Local Procurement of GP Practices and Health Centres, to support primary care trusts (PCTs) in procuring the new general practitioner (GP) practices and health centre services. This framework is based on existing guidance from the Office of Government Commerce and contains a set of procurement tools and template documentation, including a number of suggested evaluation criteria. The precise mix of these criteria and their associated weightings will be determined locally by primary care trusts based on local circumstances. Copies of the framework and evaluation plan have been placed in the Library.

Additionally, the Department wrote to strategic health authority chief executives in December to confirm the core criteria and proposed time scales that will underpin the development of new GP practices and health centres. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

The Department has not received any reports on the procurement conducted by Camden Primary Care Trust for three new GP practices. This was a locally managed process outwith the current procurements of new practices and health centres.

Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on the outcomes of London Strategic Health Authority's review of the property assets held by London's healthcare trusts. [202144]

Mr. Bradshaw: No formal review of the London Strategic Health Authority's (SHA) property assets has been commissioned. However, the SHA does regularly monitor the NHS's usage of its estate, and whether this is delivering best value for money.

NHS: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the savings to the NHS that could be achieved by extending the prescription of generic drugs. [203105]

Dawn Primarolo: Using the quarterly potential generic savings report produced by the prescription pricing division of the NHS Business Services Authority, it is possible to determine that for the latest period available, October 2007 to December 2007, the potential savings, in England, that may be achieved by prescribing generically rather than by brand is £8.6 million.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the extra costs incurred by the NHS in treating patients whose conditions have worsened as a result of them not being able to afford their prescribed medication. [203106]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no such estimate.

We agree it is vitally important that people get the medicines they need. There are already extensive arrangements in place for exemption from prescription charges, particularly for those on a low income. People who do pay for their prescriptions can manage the cost by purchasing a prescription prepayment certificate, which allows them to get all the prescription items they need for £27.85 for three months and £102.50 for a year.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has had negotiations with Fujitsu on that company *(a)* exiting and *(b)* changing their contracts with Connecting for Health; and what minimum number of suppliers to the central Connecting for Health contracts is allowed under the terms of the NHS IT programme. [202329]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department continues to negotiate constructively with Fujitsu on the company's proposals to reset its supplier contract under the national programme for information technology. Reset is a normal, repeatable, process, for contracts with a long lifetime to ensure that their ongoing delivery reflects progress to date, current priorities, and deployment plans for the future, and that they continue to support the evolving needs of the national health service. Reset also allows for the option of agreeing enhancements to existing services or functionality that does not effect a change in contract scope or risk allocation.

The original procurement strategy for the national programme was to avoid reliance on a single supplier to deliver the programme, and recognised that some suppliers might fail and need to be replaced, but without reference to a maximum or minimum number of suppliers.

Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the impact of the renegotiation of the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme on research, development and innovation in the biopharmaceutical sector. [202818]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's position in the renegotiation of the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme is coordinated across Government at both official and ministerial level.

Pharmacy: Private Sector

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the viability of independent pharmacies; and if he will make a statement. [204624]

Ann Keen: Since the publication of our White Paper "Pharmacy in England—Building on strengths, delivering the future" on 3 April 2008, the Department has received a number of representations on a range of issues, including the viability of independent pharmacies. We are actively seeking feedback on the White Paper generally and on key proposals for structural change, including through the series of public events currently being held across the country.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies was in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was for each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189661]

Mr. Bradshaw: A return on the number and cost of press officers in the Department's Media Centre is published at the end of each financial year. Information for the financial year 2007-08 has not yet been audited.

Cost of Media Centre staff, 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Cost (£ million)
2006-07	1.765
2005-06	1.772
2004-05	1.471
2003-04	1.284
2002-03	1.077
2001-02	1.279
2000-01	1.233
1999-2000	1.253
1998-99	1.122
1997-98	1.062

Note:
Figures exclude social security and pension costs.

The Department has two executive agencies. The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency does not employ press officers, and media services are supplied by the Media Centre.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) was set up in 2005-06 and the annual cost of providing media relations services is in the following table.

	Cost (£)
2006-07	195,675
2005-06	135,166

Information on the breakdown of staffing and costs of non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189662]

Mr. Bradshaw: A return on the number and cost of press officers in the Department's Media Centre is published at the end of each financial year.

Number of press officers, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Number of staff
1997-98	15
1998-99	15
1999-2000	21
2000-01	22
2001-02	22
2002-03	24
2003-04	26
2004-05	30
2005-06	30
2006-07	26
2007-08	28

The Department has two executive agencies. The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency does not employ press officers, and media services are supplied by the Department's Media Centre. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has employed three press officers since it was set up in 2005-06.

Information on the breakdown of staffing and costs of non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally.

Social Services

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each local authority area had their long-term care needs assessed as *(a)* low, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* critical in each year since the Fair Access to Care Services criteria were introduced. [204612]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: These data are not held centrally.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in the Chelmsford local authority area were arrested for alcohol-related offences in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [204253]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written statement of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 29-30WS, on Security Industry Authority (entitlement to work in the UK), how many of those who have had licences revoked have also had national insurance numbers withdrawn. [189916]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply

None of those who have had their licences revoked by the Security Industry Authority have had their national insurance numbers (NINOs) cancelled.

The current practice is for a NINO, once allocated, not to be cancelled except in specified circumstances. This is because a NINO, even if only used for a limited period, links an individual to their national insurance contribution record, not all of which may have been accrued whilst working illegally, and to any future legitimate right to contributory benefits.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2289-92W on apprentices, to the hon. Member for Edmonton, how those apprenticeships in Wirral Local Authority area referred to breakdown by *(a)* sex of apprentice and *(b)* type of occupation in which the apprenticeship was offered; if he will publish the further information he has regarding Wirral; and if he will make a statement. [204666]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is provided in the following tables. I am glad our apprenticeships programme is helping so many young people in the Wirral and that the number of people completing an apprenticeship framework is increasing. In World-class Apprenticeship we outline how we will continue to expand the programme to ensure that all suitably qualified young people who want an apprenticeship will be able to do so from 2013.

Number of apprenticeship framework completions for the 2002/03 and 2005/06 academic years for learners residing in Wirral local authority as recorded on the Learning and Skills Council Work Based Learning Individualised Learner Record

	2002/03			2005/06		
Sector	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Asset Skills (Property and cleaning)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Creative and Cultural	0	0	0	0	0	0
e-skills (IT and Telecoms)	1	6	7	3	19	22
Financial Services	3	0	3	1	1	2
People 1st (Hospitality, Travel and Tourism)	26	13	39	35	41	76
Skillfast (Fashion and Textiles)	0	0	0	0	5	5
SkillsActive (Sport and Recreation)	4	1	5	7	24	31
Skillset (Creative Media Industries)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skillsmart Retail	30	11	41	25	18	43
Automotive Skills	0	16	16	0	62	62
Cogent (Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Oil and Gas)	0	1	1	0	0	0
ECITB/Construction	0	14	14	1	80	81
Goskills (Passenger Transport)	1	1	2	0	7	7
Improve (Food and Drink Manufacture)	0	1	1	0	0	0
Lantra (Environmental and Land-Based)	9	7	16	10	16	26
Proskills (process and Manufacturing)	0	4	4	0	3	3
SEMTA (Engineering)	0	43	43	5	47^	52
Skills for Logistics (Delivery and Storage)	0	9	9	1	5	6
SummitSkills (Building Services engineering)	0	10	10	0	54	54
Government Skills (Central Government)	0	0	0	0	0	0
LLUK (HE and FE)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skills for Care and Development	12	1	13	65	3	68
Skills for Health	5	1	6	29	0	29
Skills for Justice	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sector Skills Councils sub total	91	139	230	182	385	567
Habia (Hair and Beauty)	47	3	50	70	7	77
Council for Administration	50	25	75	100	33	133
Inst of Customer Service	35	12	47	50	26	76

Number of apprenticeship framework completions for the 2002/03 and 2005/06 academic years for learners residing in Wirral local authority as recorded on the Learning and Skills Council Work Based Learning Individualised Learner Record

	2002/03			2005/06		
Sector	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Skills for Security	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other sector bodies sub total	132	40	172	220	67	287
Others[1]	1	6	7	0	3	3
Total	224	185	409	402	455	857

[1] Includes other minor sector bodies or where records are incomplete.

Source:
LSC Work Based Learning Individualised Learner Record

Department for Education and Skills

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will break down by subheading each line in Table 8.9 in the 2007 Annual Report of the former Department for Education and Skills. [203878]

Bill Rammell: The breakdown of the information contained in Table 8.9 in the 2007 Annual Report of the former Department for Education and Skills is already publicly available and is contained in Tables 4a, 6 and 7 of the LSC published accounts covering the period 2001-07.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201761]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's systems are currently unable to provide the breakdown requested and to do so would incur disproportionate cost. I can confirm that since the beginning of this Session and up to 31 March 2008 the Department has received a total of 1,151 PQs: 141 Named Day and 1,010 Ordinary Written PQs. The parliamentary team have been maintaining a manual check on all Named Day PQs to monitor the timeliness of replies and the Department's statistics for answering named day PQs for the months of November 2007 to March 2008 are shown in the table as follows.

	Total Named Day PQs received	*Total Named Day PQs answered on time (%)*
November 2007	46	37
December 2007	23	35
January 2008	16	6
February 2008	17	35
March 2008	27	11
April 2008	15	80

Higher Education: EU Nationals

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely amount of bad debt arising from outstanding tuition fees from students from EU countries studying at English universities after April 2010; and what provision he has made for such debt. [192346]

Bill Rammell: Loans for tuition fees to higher education students from other European Union (EU) member states began in September 2006. The Student Loans Company has established payment arrangements for borrowers from those countries. They are informed of the methods of repayment available to them; and the SLC is putting in place enforcement procedures which will include the use of external trace agents, international debt collection companies and—where necessary—litigation against those defaulting on their repayments. Legal action against defaulting borrowers across the EU is underpinned by EC regulation 44/2001 which allows the SLC to obtain judgments in UK courts which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries.

The salary thresholds above which borrowers repay have been set at levels appropriate to each EU member state, taking into account living costs, so that borrowers' repayments take local circumstances into account.

Some students from EU member states will stay in the UK to work after graduation, in which case they are expected to obtain a national insurance number and make loan repayments through the UK tax system.

While there is not yet enough information about repayments from EU students accurately to estimate a default rate there is no evidence to suggest that these students will be less likely to honour their loan repayment obligations than UK borrowers.

Learning and Skills Council for England

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will publish a reconciliation of Table 8.9 in his Department's Annual Report with Table 4a in the 2007 Annual Report of the Learning and Skills Council. [203874]

Bill Rammell: The two tables are compiled at different points in the year: the figures in the 2007 Departmental Annual Report (DAR) were based on

December 2006 forecasts and the figures in the 2006-07 LSC accounts are the audited figures as at 31 March 2007. In addition, the administration budget for the LSC is not included in Table 4a of the 2006-07 LSC accounts while the European Social Fund budgets are not included in Table 8.9 of the DAR. These are the reasons for the differences that occur between these two sets of published numbers.

Overseas Students: Loans

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what total value of Student Loan Company loans is held by students from European Union member states other than the UK; [187650]

(2) how many students from EU member states other than the UK hold loans from the Student Loan Company. [187651]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company issued tuition fee loans to students from other European Union countries for the first time in September 2006. During the 2006-07 academic year 7,100 EU students studying in England borrowed £9.7 million in tuition fee loans. This represents 2.5 per cent. of tuition fee loans issued in England.

The Student Loans Company has established payment arrangements for borrowers from other EU countries. Those staying in the UK are expected to obtain a National Insurance Number and make repayments through the UK tax system. If they are going abroad arrangements are in place for repayments to be scheduled and these borrowers are made aware of the methods of repayment available to them.

So that all who can pay contribute to the costs of their education we have put in place variable threshold bands which are dependent on where the borrower lives. Effective collection across the EU is underpinned by EC regulation 44/2001, which allows the SLC to obtain judgments in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries.

Students: Debts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the average debt a student beginning a higher education degree course in 2008 is likely to have on graduating. [194090]

Bill Rammell: We estimate that students beginning higher education degree courses in 2008 are likely to graduate with personal debt, on average, of some £16,000. However, the average will depend on: how many students choose to take-up a loan for tuition fees; whether those students who are eligible for grants thereby reduce how much they borrow for maintenance; and whether trends in the level of commercial debt remain stable.

Student loans have very different features to most commercial loans. Repayment is based on income, not the amount owed. Graduates only repay once they are in work and only when their annual income reaches £15,000. Interest is charged at the rate of inflation, so students only pay back in real terms the amount they originally borrowed.

In July last year we announced plans to introduce greater flexibility in the repayment of student loans by allowing borrowers to take repayment breaks of up to five years.

A generous package of support is available to students, particularly those from low income households. In 2006/07 over half of eligible full-time students received a full or partial maintenance grant of up to £2,700. From 2008/09 onwards, the minimum threshold (of household income) for a full maintenance grant of up to £2,835 per year will be extended from £17,500 a year to £25,000 a year; with a partial grant available up to an income threshold of £60,005. This will mean that two thirds of all eligible students in England entering higher education in the academic year 2008/09 are expected to be entitled to a full or partial non-repayable grant—compared to just over half now.

Students: Fees and Charges

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the average annual tuition fee paid by first degree part-time undergraduates in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [202199]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not available, as it is not collected centrally. Part-time tuition fees are not regulated; each institution sets fee levels for its own courses.

Statutory support for part-time students was first introduced in 2000/01. Part-time higher education students studying at least 50 per cent. of an equivalent full-time course can apply for means-tested course grants and fee grants. In 2006/07, we introduced the most generous package of financial support ever for part-time students in England. This included increasing the maximum fee grant by 27 per cent. and an above-inflation increase in the income threshold for receiving this support.

Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of first degree undergraduates with a parental household income of *(a)* £25,000, *(b)* £30,000, *(c)* £40,000, *(d)* £50,000, *(e)* £60,000 and *(f)* £70,000; and if he will make a statement. [203153]

Bill Rammell: We have not made specific estimates of the proportion of students at each household income level. For full-time students, the recently announced reforms for 2008/09 mean we estimate that around one third of eligible students will be entitled to a full grant. These students will have a residual household income of £25,000 or less. We also estimate around a third will be entitled to a partial grant, equivalent to an income between £25,000 and £60,005.

Due to these reforms for full-time students, by 2011, the number of students receiving some level of grant will increase by around 100,000. As part of this change, an extra 50,000 students will receive a full grant.

For part-time students the uncertainties are greater as the student support package is generally not available to students above a household income of around £26,000 (2007/08 support).

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many residential accommodation places are being provided by ClearSprings for *(a)* persons on bail and *(b)* offenders released early from jail in 2008-09; and how many such places they will provide in each of the next three years; [204732]

(2) what steps ClearSprings is required to take to consult local authorities before providing housing for *(a)* persons on bail and *(b)* offenders released early from jail; and how many complaints against ClearSprings for not consulting he has received; [204733]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that correct procedures are followed by ClearSprings to *(a)* inform and *(b)* consult local authorities before sourcing residential accommodation for housing (i) persons on bail and (ii) offenders released early from jail; [204734]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 144, on what evidence he stated that Basildon council did not veto proposals by ClearSprings to purchase properties in Basildon to provide accommodation for offenders released early from prison. [204736]

Mr. Hanson: ClearSprings have to date been asked by NOMS to provide 160 properties for those bailed by the courts or released from prison on home detention curfew. The Regional Offender Managers and Directors of Offender Management keep the requirement under review and will seek further provision and adjustments to the geographical spread as demand requires.

ClearSprings are required to consult the police, probation and local authorities about addresses under consideration. They give an opportunity for any concerns to be registered. If there are objections these are discussed with the Regional Offender Manager/ Director of Offender Management who will make the final decision on whether to proceed with an address.

There have been a small number of complaints from or on behalf of local authorities about lack of consultation, or delay in consultation. Local authorities will not be consulted until specific addresses are under consideration.

An audit of ClearSprings' past consultation was conducted during April and the report is expected shortly.

We were wrongly advised by ClearSprings that Basildon district council had not responded to ClearSprings' approach to them about potential addresses for the service.

Crimes of Violence: Curfews

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances a judge may suspend a curfew placed on a violent offender; what procedures exist to challenge such a ruling; and if he will make a statement. [204618]

Mr. Hanson: A court may impose a curfew as a condition of a community order or suspended sentence order. It would be open to the court when sentencing to make specific direction as to the start date of the curfew condition, under the general powers to impose such a condition set out in the Criminal Justice Act 2003. It is also open to the court subsequently to vary such a condition, should it see fit, upon application by either the offender or the Offender Manager.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on translation services into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages by his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies (i) in 2003-04, (ii) in 2004-05, (iii) in 2005-06, (iv) in 2006-07 and (v) in 2007-08. [203872]

Maria Eagle: Information on how much was spent on translation services in Welsh is not separately recorded and could be ascertained only at a disproportional cost. Total costs spent on translation services for each part of the Department are as follows:

MoJ HQ (including former DCA)

Total spend on translation services

		£
(i)	2003-04	66,723.31
(ii)	2004-05	6,709.67
(iii)	2005-06	51,893.11
(iv)	2006-07	259,728.29
(v)	2007-08	272,877.09

HMCS

HMCS came into existence in April 2005 and therefore figures before this date are unobtainable.

Total spend on translation services

		£
(i)	2003-04	n/a
(ii)	2004-05	n/a
(iii)	2005-06	122,000.00
(iv)	2006-07	149,000.00
(v)	2007-08	200,000.00

Tribunals

The Tribunals Services came into existence in April 2006 and therefore figures before this date are unobtainable.

Total spend on translation services

		£
(i)	2003-04	n/a
(ii)	2004-05	n/a
(iii)	2005-06	n/a
(iv)	2006-07	165
(v)	2007-08	5,552.25

OPG

Total spend on translation services

		£
(i)	2003-04	24,357.31
(ii)	2004-05	7,897.89
(iii)	2005-06	1,166.00
(iv)	2006-07	1,976.90
(v)	2007-08	65,499.68

PCJR

While OCJR did have some documents translated into Welsh throughout the years listed, details of what they were and their costs have not been retained centrally. Expenditure on translation services is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

NOMS (including HMPS and Probation Service)

NOMS do not separately identify expenditure on translation services within their accounts and data may only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

National Offender Management Information System

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on his Department's Offender Management computer scheme. [203711]

Mr. Hanson: The NOMIS Programme has been funded by the Ministry of Justice since its formation and prior to that by the Home Office. The total expenditure to the end of April 2008 is estimated at £193 million, of which £125 million was expensed in 2006/07 and earlier years. The newly revised CNOMIS Programme to improve the sharing of vital information between public prisons and probation areas, and support the much needed replacement of at-risk IT systems will ensure both the protection of the public and the continued successful implementation of the Offender Management Model.

Prisoners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of hours was a prisoner spent outside his or her cell *(a)* per day and *(b)* per week in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [199933]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) collects time outside of cell data per weekday and therefore cannot answer the question in the format requested. The table below shows the average number of hours a prisoner spent outside his or her cell per weekday in each of the last 10 years.

Average time out of cell per prisoner per weekday

	Hours
1997-98	10.9
1998-99	10.6
1999-2000	10.2
2000-01	9.6
2001-02	9.6
2002-03	9.8
2003-04	9.9
2004-05	10.0
2005-06	10.0
2006-07	10.1

Prisoners: Disabled

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what requirements there are for *(a)* diversity and *(b)* disability training for prison officers; and what the (i) duration and (ii) frequency of the training programmes is. [199676]

Maria Eagle: Prisons and HQ groups decide what training their staff should receive within the parameters of legal requirements and the Prison Service commitment to training and developing staff. There is a variety of training, of varying duration, available to staff and managers and the overall theme of diversity, including race and disability issues, is threaded through aspects of Prison Service learning and development.

Though embedded in training courses, diversity is specifically addressed in first line manager training as part of the Introductory Certificate in Management, and in both Operational Manager (Excellence in Management and Leadership in the Prison—EMALPS) and Senior Operational Manager (Leadership Excellence and Performance in Prisons—LEAPP) programmes. The full range of the diversity strands is also included in the Intensive Development Scheme (IDS) induction programme.

Training for newly recruited prison officers begins with an eight week Prison Officer Entry Level Training (POELT) course. Diversity issues are threaded throughout the POELT course but there are two specific four hour sessions to address knowledge of diversity issues including disability, race, age and gender.

Within the private sector, individual contractors are responsible for training their staff in line with current legislation specified in the contract. Arrangements are in place in all private sector prisons for Prison Custody Officers to receive diversity training.

Prisoners: Employment

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were *(a)* employed, *(b)* unemployed, *(c)* on short-term sick leave, *(d)* on long-term sick leave, *(e)* retired and *(f)* on maternity leave at the latest date for which information is available. [203702]

Maria Eagle: Information on the employment related activities of prisoners is not collected centrally.

A 2003 resettlement survey of a representative sample of 1,945 British national sentenced prisoners aged 18 and above showed that 32 per cent. of prisoners were in employment, training or education in the four weeks before custody. The proportions varied according to prisoner groups: adult men 34 per cent., women 14 per cent., young offenders 41 per cent. Of

these in employment, 65 per cent. were in permanent jobs, 25 per cent. temporary and 9 per cent. under a fixed contract.

14 per cent. of prisoners in the survey said they had never had a paid job before custody (11 per cent. of adult men; 26 per cent. of women; 25 per cent. of young offenders). Niven, S. and Stewart, D (2005) Resettlement Outcomes on Release from Prison in 2003. London: Home Office.

More detail on the 2003 survey is available in Home Office Research Findings 248 which is available on the RDS website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/rfpubs1.html

Prisoners: Females

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time served in prison on remand was for women in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* in 2008 to date; and if he will make a statement. [199906]

Maria Eagle: Data on the length of time offenders spend on remand are not routinely collected. However we can estimate the average time on remand by comparing the average remand population and total number of remand receptions each year. On this basis, the following table shows the average length of time in days spent by women on remand in prison establishments in England and Wales in each year between 1997 and 2006 (more recent data are not yet available):

	Average time on remand
1997	43
1998	41
1999	41
2000	39
2001	39
2002	40
2003	40
2004	42
2005	46
2006	44

These figures have been estimated based on data drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Basildon

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans *(a)* to introduce a Titan prison and *(b)* to instruct ClearSprings to acquire residential property in Basildon district (i) in 2008 and (ii) in the following three years. [204735]

Mr. Hanson: The regional offender manager for the East of England has not yet finalised plans in relation to ClearSprings property in Basildon in 2008 for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. If decisions are made we will inform the hon. Member.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held two to a cell in cells certified for one person in each prison at the end of February 2008. [201716]

Maria Eagle: Establishments report the number of prisoners who, at unlock on the last day of the month, are held in crowded conditions. This includes those held two in a cell with a certified normal accommodation (CNA) for one (doubling). The number of prisoners who were held two to a cell in cells certified for one person in each prison at the end of February 2008 is shown in the table as follows.

Prison	*Number of prisoners held two to a cell in cells certified for one person*
Altcourse	856
Askham Grange	0
Acklington	0
Albany	0
Ashfield	0
Ashwell	12
Aylesbury	0
Belmarsh	0
Blundeston	36
Bedford	302
Blantyre House	0
Brockhill	0
Bristol	150
Birmingham	658
Bullingdon	400
Brinsford	22
Blakenhurst	490
Bullwood Hall	0
Brixton	234
Buckley Hall	58
Bronzefield	0
Chelmsford	292
Cardiff	510
Camp Hill	128
Cookham Wood	0
Coldingley	46
Castington	0
Channings Wood	32
Canterbury	190
Dartmoor	44
Dovegate	66
Drake Hall	0
Durham	678
Doncaster	708
Dorchester	164
Deerbolt	0
Dover	0
Downview	0
Erlestoke	0
Standford Hill	0
East Sutton Park	0
Everthorpe	140
Eastwood Park	48
Exeter	352
Elmley	184
Forest Bank	656

Prison	Number of prisoners held two to a cell in cells certified for one person
Ford	0
Frankland	0
Feltham	0
Full Sutton	0
Foston Hall	0
Featherstone	20
Garth	12
Gloucester	160
Guys Marsh	92
Grendon	0
Glen Parva	324
Gartree	0
Hollesley Bay	0
Huntercombe	0
Hewell Grange	0
Holme House	286
Hindley	0
Hull	550
High Down	0
Highpoint	42
Edmunds Hill	0
Haslar	0
Haverigg	10
Holloway	0
Kirkham	0
Kennet	312
Kirklevington	0
Lancaster	114
Leicester	292
Leeds	736
Lancaster Farms	58
Lindholme	120
Lincoln	574
Long Lartin	0
Latchmere House	0
Low Newton	54
Lowdham Grange	88
Liverpool	440
Littlehey	86
Lewes	152
Leyhill	0
Moorland	64
Morton Hall	0
Manchester	596
Maidstone	56
Mount	28
New Hall	68
Nottingham	332
Northallerton	184
North Sea Camp	0
Norwich	182
Onley	0
Peterborough	0
Portland	0
Parkhurst	70
Preston	680
Pare	301
Kingston	0
Pentonville	796
Rochester	0
Reading	148
Rye Hill	0
Ranby	236
Risley	92
Send	0
Stafford	0
Stoke Heath	196
Stocken	54
Swaleside	28
Shepton Mallet	48
Swinfen Hall	34
Styal	18
Sudbury	0
Swansea	350
Shrewsbury	308
Thorn Cross	0
Usk\Prescoed	208
Verne	68
Wellingborough	8
Winchester	330
Wakefield	0
Wealstun	34
Woodhill	306
Wayland	90
Wymott	90
Werrington	0
Wolds	88
Whitemoor	0
Wormwood Scrubs	124
Whatton	60
Wandsworth	1,084
Warren Hill	0
Wetherby	0

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204098]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, along with the majority of central Government Departments, is a member of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). The GCOF aims to fulfil the Government's commitment to offset emissions attributable to all official and ministerial air travel in central Government. It is available to all central Government Departments and provides a simple and cost effective way to offset, as well as ensuring high environmental integrity. The GCOF runs for an initial period of three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09).

The GCOF is being managed by EEA Fund Management Ltd, which won the contract to source and deliver 255,000 Certified Emission Reduction Credits, with a provision for a further 50,000 credits, over three years from a range of Clean Development

Mechanism (CDM) projects. Credits will be supplied from the project portfolio of Trading Emissions plc, to which EEA is the investment adviser.

My Department paid £11,384.56 into the GCOF for 2006-07, to offset some 1,148 tCO_2e from air travel. Data is currently being collected for the 2007-08 reporting year and will be available later in the year.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employees there were in the Northern Ireland Office on (i) 1 April 2007 and (ii) 1 April 2008. [203435]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the number of full-time and part-time staff in the Northern Ireland Office at 1 April 2007 and 1 April 2008. The figures have been taken from the figures published in the monthly manpower reports.

	Number
Number full-time staff	
April 2007	1,827
April 2008	1,841
Number part-time staff	
April 2007	252
April 2008	258

Firearms: Licensing

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any person with a conviction for membership of a proscribed paramilitary organisation in Northern Ireland has been granted a licence to carry a personal firearm since 1998. [203660]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland has advised that the information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what further steps he is considering to reduce the level of knife crime in Northern Ireland following previous amnesties; [203726]

(2) what plans he has for *(a)* a further amnesty and *(b)* other measures to seek to reduce the level of knife crime in Northern Ireland. [204662]

Paul Goggins: A number of initiatives have been introduced since the last amnesty and are now in operation across Northern Ireland to reduce the level of knife crime. PSNI have rolled out the use of metal detectors and also introduced a stop and search policy. New legislation has been introduced to make it more difficult to obtain knives by raising the minimum age limit for purchase to 18. Last month, it became illegal in Northern Ireland to manufacture, sell, hire or import samurai swords. The recent Criminal Justice (NI) Order contains powers which double the penalties for possessing a knife in public and also for selling/manufacturing/marketing knives to under 18s.

Knife disposal bins have been retained on site at civic amnesty locations and PSNI education officers continue to raise awareness in schools on a number of key issues, including the dangers of carrying a knife.

Knife crime is totally unacceptable. While the Government currently have no plan to re-run the knife amnesty, we will continue to consider a range of policies and initiatives to tackle knife crime in Northern Ireland.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204097]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office forms part of the Ministry of Justice. The Scotland Office has not spent anything in relation to carbon offsetting in the last three years. However, the Scotland Office is committed to playing its full part in the Ministry of Justice's Sustainable Action Plan, published on 14 March 2008. The plan included details of how it intends to achieve carbon neutral status by 2012, which will involve carbon emissions offsetting.

TRANSPORT

Roads: Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what volume of freight was carried by road between Felixstowe and Nuneaton in each of the last 10 years; and what volume is projected to be carried on the route in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011, *(d)* 2012 and *(e)* 2013. [204022]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

TREASURY

European Union Solidarity Fund

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* gross and *(b)* net amounts he expects the UK to receive from the EU Solidarity Fund to compensate for flood damage; what the reasons for the difference between the two figures are; and if he will make a statement. [204617]

Kitty Ussher: The UK expects to receive €162.4 million from the EU Solidarity Fund, around £110 million at the exchange rate at the time of application. The net value to the UK of this receipt is around £31 million, calculated as the full benefit (around £110 million)

minus the UK contribution through the EC Budget (around £19 million) and the resultant reduction to the UK abatement (around £60 million).

Minimum Wage: Prosecutions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-4W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many employers have accrued minimum wage arrears in relation to *(a)* under five employees, *(b)* five to 15, *(c)* 15 to 30, *(d)* 30 to 50, *(e)* 50 to 100, *(f)* 100 to 200, *(g)* 200 to 500 and *(f)* over 500 employees in each year since the minimum wage was introduced, broken down by region. [203868]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available in the format requested.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-4W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many employers have accrued minimum wage arrears of *(a)* under £5,000, *(b)* £5,000 to £25,000, *(c)* £25,000 to £50,000, *(d)* £50,000 to £75,000, *(e)* £75,000 to £100,000 and *(f)* over £100,000 in each year since the minimum wage was introduced, broken down by region. [203869]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available in the format requested.

Northern Rock

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to issue an invitation to tender for the role of independent valuer in relation to Northern Rock; when he expects to appoint an independent valuer; and when the independent valuer will be required to report to him. [204552]

Kitty Ussher: The position of independent valuer to assess any compensation for those affected by the transfer of Northern Rock into public ownership will be advertised shortly. The valuer's remit is set out in the Northern Rock plc Compensation Scheme Order 2008. Under the order the independent valuer does not report to the Treasury (beyond copying to the Treasury any compensation assessment notices that he or she issues).

Northern Rock: Manpower

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the headcount of Northern Rock bank was on *(a)* 21 February and *(b)* 30 April 2008. [204629]

Kitty Ussher: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

Northern Rock: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the board of Northern Rock bank on the future of the bank's Republic of Ireland operations. [204628]

Kitty Ussher: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from Government on commercial principles.

Northern Rock published a business plan on 31 March 2008. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has approved the business plan and has placed a copy in the Library of both Houses. In the business plan, the Board announced that they would retain their savings operation in the Republic of Ireland.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budgeted financial balance of Northern Rock Bank (Ireland) is for the financial year 2008-09. [204630]

Kitty Ussher: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from the Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

Physical Activity Review

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the cross-Government Physical Activity Review. [203883]

Yvette Cooper: In the context of the Government's commitment to deliver on the Comprehensive Spending Review, Olympics and Olympic Legacy, and provide a world-class community sports infrastructure, a number of Government Departments are considering the most efficient and effective way of maximising the impact of investment in sport and physical activity. Findings of this work will be integrated into a number of forthcoming announcements.

Poynter Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the final report of the Poynter Review will be published. [204468]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the Chancellor's statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 612.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs will reply to the letter of 12 July 2007 from the hon. Member for Aylesbury on the case of Mrs. H; and if he will make a statement. [204611]

Jane Kennedy: The hon. Member's constituent's tax credit award was affected by the administrative problem with certain claims as detailed in my written statement on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS.

The Acting Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs replied to the hon. Member on 8 May 2008 and has apologised for the long delay.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205050]

Angela Eagle: One smoking shelter was built at Trevelyan house, Great Peter street when the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) was in occupation. The shelter was modified subsequently, in July 2007, to comply with changes in legislation. OGC vacated the building in September 2007.

Smuggling: Tobacco

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the UK will sign the EU anti-smuggling agreement with Japan Tobacco International; and if he will make a statement. [204472]

Angela Eagle: The UK is not currently party to the agreement between Japan Tobacco International and the European Community and its member states ("the JTI Agreement"). Since the launch of the Government's Tackling Tobacco Smuggling Strategy in 2000, a comprehensive range of new measures has been introduced to counter the threats from tobacco smuggling. In particular, HM Revenue and Customs have Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with all major UK tobacco manufacturers, which form a strong framework for cooperation with the industry to tackle the illicit trade in tobacco. In 2006, when the strategy was refreshed, these MoUs were underpinned with the introduction of new supply chain control legislation, which places a legal obligation on tobacco manufacturers not to facilitate smuggling, along with penalties of up to five million for those who fail to comply.

The MoUs and the legislation cover many of the same issues contained in the JTI Agreement, though with some key differences in detail. For example, the legislation contains no significant exclusions, whereas the JTI Agreement does not cover products that have been duty paid in another EU member state and then smuggled into the UK. This would limit the Agreement's impact on the UK tobacco smuggling problem and could also cause legal difficulties if the Agreement and the UK legislation were to operate in parallel.

It is important also to note that the UK legislation and MoUs cover all major manufacturers. This ensures a level playing field for manufacturers, as well as guarding against the risk that smuggling is displaced to products not covered by an Agreement. We are committed to keeping our position on Agreements such as the JTI Agreement under review, to take account of any further Agreements that might be signed.

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect that the Memorandum of Understanding Gallaher signed with Customs and Excise on 23rd April 2002 had on the subsequent proportion of Customs and Excise's seizures of smuggled tobacco products in 2003-04 that were genuine Gallaher brands; and if he will make a statement. [204536]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publishes details of the cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco seized in its annual reports.

The Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) agreed between HMRC and leading UK tobacco manufacturers form one strand of the Government's "Tackling Tobacco Smuggling" strategy—a comprehensive package of measures which together have resulted in a steady decline in the size of the illicit tobacco market, from around 20 per cent. in 2001-02 to around 13 per cent. in 2005-06. Levels of seizures can be affected by a number of factors, so it is not possible to attribute changes in the proportion of seizures made up of a tobacco manufacturer's genuine brands directly to a MoU. Even if it were possible, the level of seizures would be only one indicator of the effectiveness of the Government's strategy. The key indicator is the size of the illicit market. HMRC publishes estimates of the illicit market share annually in the 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses' report, which can be found in the Commons Library. In the last few years, seizures of genuine cigarettes made by HMRC have made up a progressively smaller share of total seizures, which is a further indicator of the positive effect of the MoUs.

Social Security Benefits: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Easington constituency were in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit, *(b)* child tax credit and *(c)* pension credit at the most recent date for which figures are available. [203790]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, by constituency, at 5 April 2008, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2008", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information is not held separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

As at May 2007 there were an estimated 6.3 thousand individuals receiving pension credit in the Easington constituency. This information can be found on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobseeker's Allowance: Foreign Workers

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect of numbers of migrant workers from other EU member states on the number of claimants of job seeker's allowance since 2004. [197379]

Mr. Timms: DWP has published research at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5A/VP29.pdf

and also in the Library, which shows that migration from the EU accession countries has not had a significant impact on claimant unemployment.

National Insurance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of national insurance number registrations were held by *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU nationals in each year since 1987. [177388]

Mr. Timms: Information on the stock of NINOs held in a given year is not available. The available information on the flow of NINOs registered each year is in the following tables.

NINO registrations to adult EU nationals (excluding UK)

Year of registration	*NINO registrations*	*As percentage of all registrations to adult foreign nationals*
2002-03	98,610	28
2003-04	113,570	31
2004-05	200,460	46
2005-06	374,320	57
2006-07	424,910	60

NINO registrations to adult non-EU nationals

Year of registration	*NINO registrations*	*As percentage of all registrations to adult foreign nationals*
2002-03	249,800	72
2003-04	256,380	69
2004-05	238,670	54
2005-06	287,550	43
2006-07	288,090	40

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. NIRS does not hold complete data on NINO registrations by nationality prior to 2002 so information is only provided from 2002-03 onwards.
3. Years referred to are from 6 April to 5 April.
4. Figures exclude a small number of cases where nationality is unknown.
5. Data are not held in a format which allows us to extract a figure of NINO registration to adult UK nationals.
6. When presenting an EU time series, if a country moved into the EU during the time series, that country has been included in the EU for the whole of the time series, to facilitate comparisons over time.
7. The data we hold on national insurance number registrations for overseas nationals are only available annually.
8. The figures do not include any NINOs that may have been issued to young foreign nationals under the juvenile registration process.
Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System (NIRS) at 31 May 2007

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for a national insurance number have been refused in each of the past five years. [184801]

Mr. Timms: The available information is in the following table.

Refused national insurance number applications

	Number of refusals
2003-04	19,243
2004-05	26,042
2005-06	17,246
2006-07	26,573
2007-08	28,077

Notes:
1. Each year runs 1 April to 31 March.
2. The table is derived from management information. The numbers include withdrawn applications.
3. Applications for national insurance numbers for employment purposes have automatically been subject to a proof of the right to work since July 2006; this reason for refusal therefore applies from 2006-07 onwards.
4. The figures are for adult UK nationals and adult foreign nationals.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions management information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued in each of the last five years. [185213]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available prior to 2003-04. The available information is in the following table.

	NINO Registrations
2003-04	1,198,500
2004-05	1,290,500
2005-06	1,449,600
2006-07	1,539,000

Notes:
1. Source data are Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs National Insurance Recording System (NIRS 2) Management Information.
2. Reporting period is 1 April to 31 March.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
4. Figures include all adult national insurance number registrations and all Juvenile Registrations on HMRC's NIRS 2 system.

National Insurance: Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were *(a)* allocated and *(b)* refused in respect of non-EU foreign workers in each quarter since 2004; and if he will break down these figures by (i) nationality and (ii) UK region. [166978]

Mr. Timms: Information is not collated on the number of applications for national insurance numbers refused to non-EU nationals.

The nationality breakdown of those non-EU nationals issued with national insurance numbers in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is published in the detailed tables of the "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK" reports on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/registration_tables.xls

and

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/registration_tables2007.xls

The top 10 nationalities (excluding UK nationals) with the most adult national insurance number registrations for the four years 2003-04 to 2006-07 are published in Table three on page 16 of the report "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK (previously Migrant Workers Statistics) 2007: Full Report" on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/niall_report.pdf

A full nationality breakdown for 2004-05 and earlier years is not available. Figures for the number of national insurance numbers issued to adult non EU nationals in 2003-04 and 2004-05 were provided in [PQ 162349] on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 576-77W.

Data by Government Office Region are shown in the following table:

NINO registrations to adult non-EU nationals by Government Office Region

	Year of registration	
Government Office Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Scotland	13,790	16,450
North East	5,940	6,430
North West	18,710	18,670
Yorkshire and the Humber	14,530	15,260
Wales	5,850	5,930
West Midlands	17,490	18,110
East Midlands	14,720	11,990
East of England	18,500	17,650
South East	33,190	33,270
London	129,070	125,800
South West	11,670	12,740
Northern Ireland	3,090	2,660
Overseas Residents	2,950	3,130
Total	287,500	288,090

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures exclude cases where nationality is unknown.
3. In order to produce a consistent time series, nationality is classified as EU or non-EU according to the country's status in May 2007.
4. Government Office Region counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.
5. Columns may not sum to totals because of rounding.
6. Quarterly data are not available. Data relate to tax years 6 April to 5 April.

Source:
100 per cent extract from National Insurance Recording System at 14 May 2007

A regional breakdown for 2004-05 and earlier years is not available.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions further to the Answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 936W, on national insurance: foreign workers, how many and what proportion of all national insurance numbers issued were issued to *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* non-EU nationals and *(c)* EU citizens in each year since 1987; what the percentage change in each category was in each period; and how many numbers were issued to people in each region of the UK in each category in each period. [177480]

Mr. Timms: The available information is provided in the following tables.

UK nationals and the juvenile registration process

The majority of UK nationals are registered with national insurance numbers (NINOs) as part of the juvenile registration process just prior to the age of 16. Some UK nationals apply for a NINO as adults and would go through the adult NINO allocation process. The data are not held in a format which allows us to extract a figure for UK nationals.

Figures for the juvenile registration process

Period	*Juvenile registration volumes (thousand)*	*Percentage change*
2003-04	753.6	—
2004-05	743.2	-1.4
2005-06	722.9	-2.7
2006-07	772.1	+6.8

Notes:
1. Reporting period for juvenile registration is 1 April to 31 March.
2. For the majority of juveniles the registration process takes place just prior to the 16th birthday. However, some juveniles may initially miss out on this process, but can be recorded as part of this process until the age of 19.
3. There may be a small number of young foreign nationals who obtain a national insurance number through the juvenile registration process. These will not appear in the foreign nationals total for adult national insurance number registrations. However, the majority of juvenile registrations are for UK nationals.

Source:
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs National Insurance Recording System (NIRS2) Management Information.

Adult national insurance number registrations to non-EU and EU citizens

The numbers in the following tables are sourced from figures already in the public domain. They are published via DWP's National Statistics First Release "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK 2006/07".

Adult national insurance number registrations to non-EU citizens

Period	*Non EU registration volumes (thousand)*	*Percentage change*
2002-03	249.8	—
2003-04	256.4	+2.6
2004-05	238.7	-6.9
2005-06	287.6	+20.5
2006-07	288.1	+0.2

Adult national insurance number registrations to EU citizens (excluding UK nationals)

Period	*EU registration volumes (thousand)—excluding UK*	*Percentage change*
2002-03	98.6	—
2003-04	113.6	+15.2
2004-05	200.5	+76.5
2005-06	374.3	+86.7
2006-07	424.9	+13.5

Adult national insurance number registrations by category and region

The available information by category and Government office region is shown in the following tables. This information is only available since 2005-06. Information on new national insurance numbers issued to UK nationals is not available at regional level.

NINO registrations to adult non-EU nationals

	Year of registration		
Government office region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Percentage change*
Scotland	13,790	16,450	19.3
North East	5,940	6,430	8.2
North West	18,710	18,670	-0.2

NINO registrations to adult non-EU nationals

Government office region	Year of registration 2005-06	2006-07	Percentage change
Yorkshire and the Humber	14,530	15,260	5.0
Wales	5,850	5,930	1.4
West Midlands	17,490	18,110	3.5
East Midlands	12,720	11,990	-5.7
East of England	18,500	17,650	-4.6
South East	33,190	33,270	0.2
London	129,070	125,800	-2.5
South West	11,670	12,740	9.2
Northern Ireland	3,090	2,660	-13.9
Overseas residents	2,950	3,130	6.1

NINO registrations to adult EU nationals (excluding UK)

Government office region	Year of registration 2005-06	2006-07	Percentage change
Scotland	27,550	35,980	30.6
North East	5,150	6,810	32.2
North West	30,130	32,860	9.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	22,010	26,350	19.7
Wales	10,570	11,080	4.8
West Midlands	24,210	29,860	23.3
East Midlands	25,740	29,010	12.7
East of England	34,280	35,710	4.2
South East	46,680	46,830	0.3
London	106,310	118,120	11.1
South West	22,000	28,960	31.6
Northern Ireland	13,220	16,940	28.1
Overseas residents	6,480	6,440	-0.6

Notes:

1. Annual periods relate to 6 April to 5 April.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used.
3. In order to produce a consistent time series, nationality is classified as EU or non-EU according to the country's status in 2006-07.
4. These figures do not include a small number of people (historically between 500 and 800 per year) who are recorded as foreign nationals but whose nationality is unknown.
5. The figures do not included any NINOs that may have been issued to young foreign nationals under the juvenile registration process.
6. Government office region counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.

Source:

100 per cent. DWP extract from the National Insurance Recording System.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new national insurance numbers were registered to foreign-born individuals in each year since 1997; and how many of these numbers have had no contributions credited against them. [192740]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The information is not available as details of a person's place of birth are not held in the National Insurance Recording System.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many migrant workers have been given national insurance numbers in each of the last three years. [196550]

Mr. Timms: The number of new national insurance number registrations for adult foreign nationals by year of registration for 2004-05 to 2006-07 is published in table 2 on page 16 of the report "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK (previously Migrant Workers Statistics) 2007: Full Report" on the Department's website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/niall_report.pdf.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 576W, on National Insurance, what the nationality breakdown is of those non-EU nationals issued with national insurance numbers in each year since 2002-03; and how many national insurance numbers were issued to *(a)* EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU nationals in each year from 1997-98 to 2001-02. [197492]

Mr. Timms: *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The nationality breakdowns of those adult non-EU nationals issued with national insurance numbers in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are published in the detailed tables of the "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK" reports on the Department's website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd 1/niall/registration_tables.xls

and

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/registration_tables2007.xls.

The top 10 nationalities (excluding UK nationals) with the most adult national insurance number registrations for the four years 2003-04 to 2006-07 are published in Table 3 on page 16 of the report "National Insurance Number Allocations to Overseas Nationals entering the UK (previously Migrant Workers Statistics) 2007: Full Report" on the Department's website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/niall_report.pdf.

A full nationality breakdown for 2004-05 and earlier years is not available.

National Insurance: Illegal Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers issued to illegal immigrants were cancelled in each of the last five years. [181634]

Mr. Timms: There are only very limited circumstances in which NINOs are cancelled. It is not possible to say whether any of those numbers cancelled had been obtained by illegal immigrants.

Where a NINO applicant is identified as an illegal immigrant, Jobcentre Plus notifies the UK Border Agency.

I also refer the hon. Member to today's written ministerial statement on national insurance numbers.

National Insurance: Immigrants

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when his Department began to check the national insurance numbers and the national insurance status of the illegal workers in the security industry identified in the oral statement of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 531-3, on the security industry authority, made by the Home Secretary; [181146]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 447W, on immigrants: national insurance, when he expects the information on national insurance numbers to be available; and what is the timescale for the exercise being conducted on determining the right to work status of EEA nationals. [195357]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* The Security Industry Authority's (SIA's) immediate priority was to complete the revocations of the licences of those who had no right to work. Only once this process was completed could the appropriate follow up action be commissioned. In accordance with this procedure, on the 7 March 2008, the SIA provided the DWP with a list of the individuals who have had their licences revoked.

These data were shared with the DWP by the SIA as soon as it was in a position to do so, taking account of the need to ensure that only the relevant information was passed to DWP. The checking process is now under way and is expected to be completed by the end of May.

National Insurance: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* citizens of other EU member states in Peterborough in each month since May 2004; and if he will make a statement. [178429]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* Information regarding the number of national insurance numbers issued to UK citizens in Peterborough is not available.

Registrations for national insurance numbers to adult nationals of EU member states (other than the UK) in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency

Year of registration	*Number of registrations*
2005-06	3,620
2006-07	3,490

Notes:
1. When presenting an EU time series, if a country moved into the EU during the time series, that country has been included in the EU for the whole of the time series, to facilitate comparisons over time.
2. The data we hold on national insurance number registrations for adult foreign nationals are only available annually.
3. Figures exclude a small number of cases where nationality is unknown.
4. Data for adult foreign nationals are only available at parliamentary constituency level for 2005-06 and 2006-07.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Years referred to are from 6 April to 5 April.
7. The figures do not include any NINOs that may have been issued to young foreign nationals under the juvenile registration process.

Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System at 31 May 2007

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 May 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Renewable Energy

Justine Greening: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much electricity was *(a)* consumed on and *(b)* produced from onsite renewable sources on the Parliamentary Estate in each year from 2002 to 2007. [202191]

Nick Harvey: The quantities of electricity consumed on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate in each year from April 2003 to March 2008, derived from invoices, are given as follows. The data for the year 2002-03 are not readily available.

	Electricity consumption (kWh)
2003-04	21,439,229
2004-05	21,560,046
2005-06	21,864,974
2006-07	21,928,289
2007-08	21,740,053

No electricity was produced from onsite renewable sources on the parliamentary estate in any year from 2002-08. 10 per cent. of electricity was purchased from offsite renewable sources from 2003 onwards and by April 2007, this had increased to 100 per cent.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Polling Stations: Disabled

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance has been issued to returning officers on *(a)* access to polling stations for those with disabilities and *(b)* steps to be taken in the event of non-delivery of polling cards. [204642]

Peter Viggers *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* The Electoral Commission informs me that its guidance for returning officers covers access to polling stations for those with disabilities. This includes a checklist of issues to consider when choosing buildings for use as polling stations. The polling station handbook for use by presiding officers and poll clerks on election day also contains advice on accessibility.

The Commission's guidance also includes information about the production and distribution of polling cards and the Commission provides advice on request in the event of non-delivery of polling cards.

WALES

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205175]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department spent £6,620 on translation services in the last financial year; all translation costs were for the Welsh language.

Parc Prison: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps he is taking to ensure the provision of child and adolescent mental health services in Parc Prison, Bridgend; and if he will make a statement. [203586]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Health Commission Wales (HCW) is currently working towards the provision of a Forensic Adolescent Consultation and Treatment Service (FACTS) in South and North Wales. HCW anticipate the service to be available in the summer of this year (2008). Part of the FACTS remit of the South Wales team will be to provide assessment and treatment advice for children in Pare prison with mental health problems. The FACTS will also assist local CAMHS teams in the development of specific services to the prison population.

The Welsh Assembly Government has made a commitment to CAMHS in its 'One Wales' document. The budget settlement included an additional £4.8 million—£1 million in 2008-09 and £1.6 million and £2.2 million in successive years—to enhance service delivery. This clearly demonstrates the priority that the Assembly Government attaches to these services. In addition, some £6.5 million has been allocated to counselling in schools over the same period.

The 2001 document "Everybody's Business" is embedded in the development of policy within the Assembly Government. The well-being of children and adolescents in Wales, including their mental emotional health, is of paramount importance to this Government.

The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales (NSF) embeds this philosophy and the setting of targets via the Service and Financial Framework for the NHS in Wales has ensured that services are improving as evidenced by the NSF Self Assessment Audit Tool results for 2006-07.

A review of CAMHS covering all relevant agencies is being undertaken by the Wales Audit Office and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales. The outcome of this review, which is expected towards the end of 2008, will contribute positively to future service developments.

TRANSPORT

A4123

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to complete the de-trunking of the A4123. [204250]

Mr. Tom Harris: Subject to the completion of the statutory procedures, it is intended that the A4123 should be detrunked by March 2009.

A4123: Accidents

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many accidents took place on the A4123 involving *(a)* pedestrians and *(b)* cyclists in the last five years; [204247]

(2) how many accidents resulting in fatalities have occurred on the A4123 in the last five years. [204248]

Mr. Tom Harris: The number of accidents on the length of A4123 for which the Highways Agency is responsible, for the latest five year period for which data are available, is as follows:

Personal injury accidents: 48 pedestrians; 18 cyclists.

Fatalities: four, of which two involved pedestrians.

A4123: Cycleways

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the feasibility of introducing improved provision for cyclists on the A4123. [204251]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has given consideration to the provision of cycle routes on the A4123 footways near junctions but no specific schemes have so far been identified.

A4123: Pedestrians

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to improve facilities for *(a)* pedestrians and *(b)* cyclists on the A4123 in Dudley and Sandwell. [204245]

Mr. Tom Harris: Currently there are no schemes planned in the 2008-09 financial year to improve the facilities already available for pedestrians and cyclists on the A4123. A scheme identified for future consideration is the improvement of pedestrian facilities in the vicinity of Mason Street, Coseley but this is unlikely to be completed prior to the proposed detrunking of this route.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the risk of accident to *(a)* pedestrians and *(b)* cyclists on the A4123 in Dudley and Sandwell. [204246]

Mr. Tom Harris: There have been two formal studies carried out into the accident risk to pedestrians and cyclists on the A4123 in the last three years. These were A4123 Pedestrian and Cyclists Accidents Birmingham to Wolverhampton Safety Study (April 2005) and The A4123 Operational Review (January 2008). In addition a review of the needs of pedestrians under the Disability Discrimination Act has also been completed for the whole of the route. All resulted in schemes that have either been taken forward or are being considered for future development.

A4123: Safety Measures

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to improve safety for pedestrians crossing the A4123 between the Foxyard and Priory estates in Dudley. [204249]

Mr. Tom Harris: There is an existing signal controlled crossing facility on the A4123 at Priory road. The Highways Agency has given consideration to the provision of additional facilities at Tipton road but this is unlikely to be completed prior to the proposed detrunking of this route.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its predecessors spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204103]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The majority of central Government Departments are members of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). The GCOF aims to fulfil the Government's commitment to offset emissions attributable to all official and ministerial air travel in central government. It is available to all central government departments and provides a simple and cost effective way to offset, as well as ensuring high environmental integrity. The GCOF runs for an initial period of three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09).

The GCOF is being managed by EEA Fund Management Ltd., who won the contract to source and deliver 255,000 certified emission reduction credits, with a provision for a further 50,000 credits, over three years from a range of clean development mechanism(COM) projects. Credits will be supplied from the project portfolio of Trading Emissions Plc, to whom EEA is the investment adviser.

As a participant in the GCOF, the Department for Transport contributed £13,445.17 to offset air travel in the year 2006-07. In addition, the Government Car and Despatch Agency contributed £22,621.31 to offset Government road fleet emissions. Data are currently being collected for the 2007-08 reporting year and will be available later in the year.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of her Department's civil servants have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for accessing (i) obscene and (ii) other prohibited material on work computers in each of the last five years. [188781]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Regular reminders are issued to staff about their responsibilities with regard to the use of e-mail and internet systems. In order to ensure that these systems are not abused, or that the Department for Transport's (DFT) security is not compromised, e-mails and internet use may be monitored from time to time.

Following are the details of the number of DFT staff either suspended or dismissed over the past five years for accessing either obscene or other prohibited material on work computers.

	Suspended	*Dismissed*
2007	<5	<5
2006	[1]<5	[2]18
2005	<5	<5
2004	<5	<5
2003	<5	<5
Total	9	26

[1] Includes one case where an individual was suspended but resigned before disciplinary charges could be investigated.
[2] Includes 17 people who were dismissed from DVLA after it was discovered that staff had been accessing and circulating inappropriate material.

Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 33W, on public transport: concessions, what representation of those with mental health disabilities there is on the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. [204018]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no specific representation of those with mental health disabilities on the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC).

Section 125 (3) of the Transport Act 1985 provides that at least half of the membership of the Committee should consist of persons who are disabled. Currently over 60 per cent. (13 out of 21) of the Committee are disabled. Members are appointed on merit and have experience of disability issues in general and understanding of the particular issues pertaining to certain impairments. DPTAC has a pan-disability approach to its work and its advice regularly reflect the views and concerns of people with different types of impairments.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many requests from *(a)* private individuals, *(b)* car park enforcement companies and *(c)* other sources were submitted to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for the release of information from the vehicle register under the provision of reasonable cause in each of the last five years; and how many of these were (i) agreed and (ii) rejected in each such year. [205159]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table includes all requests for vehicle keeper details processed under the 'reasonable cause' provisions. These include requests from insurance and finance companies, private car park enforcement companies, members of the public and solicitors, for keeper details at a specific date of event. It also contains requests where the current registered keeper requires the full history of his vehicle and from mileage companies for investigations into vehicle 'clocking'. The DVLA does not keep separate figures for each category of requests, so is unable to provide figures on how many requests were from private individual, car park enforcement companies, or other sources.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Electronic	597,688	633,084	809,859	936,538	1,263,019
Manual	291,975	327,476	454,425	407,365	380,874
Total	889,663	960,560	1,264,284	1,343,903	1,643,893

The following table shows the number of requests for information that were rejected during the same time period.

	Requests rejected
2003-04	17,565
2004-05	16,381
2005-06	12,383
2006-07	37,763
2007-08	35,682
Total	119,774

Felixstowe to Nuneaton Railway Line: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on the Felixstowe to Nuneaton rail route in each year since 1997; how much her Department plans to spend in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011, *(d)* 2012 and *(e)* 2013; and how much of this expenditure is intended to improve the freight carrying capacity of the line. [204023]

Mr. Tom Harris: The amount of money spent on the Felixstowe to Nuneaton route since 1997 is a matter for Network Rail. The White Paper—'Delivering a Sustainable Railway'—provided for £200 million to create a strategic freight network of which £50 million has been proposed for Ipswich to Nuneaton capacity enhancements. A further £80 million of Productivity—Transport Innovation Fund money was announced in October 2007 for gauge and capacity enhancements between Peterborough and Nuneaton.

All this expenditure is intended to enhance freight capacity on the route but will benefit passenger services as well. The annual breakdown of spend on these projects between 2009 and 2013 is a matter for Network Rail.

GoVia

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on GoVia, by what date she expects to have made an announcement regarding the South Central rail franchise. [203524]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The Government will be making a further announcement with regard to the South Central franchise before the end of May.

M20: Noise

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1445W, on M20: noise, how many sites having been designated as high priority for resurfacing have been resurfaced when the road surface has been assessed as being structurally sound. [203876]

Mr. Tom Harris: None.

Official Vehicles: Accidents

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in how many accidents *(a)* ministerial vehicles and *(b)* accompanying police vehicles have been involved in each of the last 10 years, broken down by ministerial office; and what the cost of repairs was in each case. [204010]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Official cars for Ministers are provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. There have been no accidents involving ministerial cars and accompanying police vehicles since the Agency was formed in 1997.

Oil: Prices

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2263-4W, on oil: prices, whether she plans to revise her projections for the future price of oil in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020. [204668]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* The Department for Transport uses oil price projections from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) in its transport modelling. On 2 May 2008, BERR published revised oil price assumptions to *(a)* $65; *(b)* $68; and *(c)* $70 for the years requested. These are in 2007 prices and refer to their central scenario.

We are in the process of using these updated projections to make new road traffic and congestion forecasts. The new oil price projections will also be incorporated into the latest versions of Department guidance and software used in developing business cases for funding by promoters.

Railways: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what preparatory steps she has taken in connection with the possible future construction of high-speed rail lines. [203339]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The Secretary of State has invited Network Rail to lead work on the development of our understanding of the complex options that may be needed in the future, in the context of the Department for Transport's wider strategic planning process. This will include looking at the feasibility and potential role of new railway lines, whether high speed or conventional.

Railways: Consultants

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 173W, on railways: consultants, (1) what work is being carried out by consultants on behalf of her Department on the feasibility of a high speed rail link between London and Birmingham; [202168]

(2) what work is being done by her Department on the feasibility of a high speed rail link between London and Birmingham. [202169]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The Secretary of State has invited Network Rail to lead work on the development of our understanding of the complex options that may be needed in the future, in the context of the Department for Transport's wider strategic planning process. This will include looking at the feasibility and potential role of new railway lines, whether high speed or conventional.

Roads: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funds have been allocated by her Department at national and regional level to Essex county council's feasibility study into an additional access road for Canvey Island. [204603]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The question of a proposed access road to Canvey Island is a matter for Essex county council, as local highway authority. The Department for Transport has not specifically allocated any funding for a feasibility study for any proposed scheme either at national or regional level.

Trains

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure that the electric version of the proposed Inter-City Express will be equipped with an automatic coupler to facilitate the attachment of a diesel locomotive. [204179]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* It is a requirement of the Invitation to Tender, published by the Department for Transport last year, that electric IEP trains can be automatically coupled to diesel powered vehicles.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role her Department will have in the procurement process for the new Inter-City Express rolling stock. [204180]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* The Department for Transport has been leading the procurement process to-date, and will continue to do so through to completion in 2009.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure that rail vehicles intended for use on *(a)* Thameslink and *(b)* Crossrail routes will be compatible for use on either line. [204181]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* Thameslink and Crossrail are similar in concept. Both aim to connect together national rail routes with a high frequency metro style service through central London. However, Thameslink uses existing tunnels built in the 19th century, whereas Crossrail will use a new, purpose built tunnel. As a result the constraints on the physical

size of the trains are different for the two projects and for that reason it is unlikely that they will be fully compatible.

Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date she expects to publish her Green Paper on transport challenges; and what topics will be covered by the Paper. [203337]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* Since the publication of "Towards a Sustainable Transport System" in October 2007, the Department for Transport has been discussing with stakeholders how to define the challenges that we will need to address in our transport strategy for 2014 and beyond. Those discussions finished at the end of March. We aim to publish our response to these stakeholder discussions, and our view on how the process of generating and selecting options should work, shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his statement of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 944, that there was record employment under Labour, including record numbers of British jobs, how many *(a)* people and *(b)* working age people were in employment in each year since 1997; what the (i) employment rate and (ii) working age employment rate was of (A) the UK population, (B) UK citizens, (C) UK born citizens and (D) non-UK citizens in each year; what the figures were in each quarter since 1 January 2006; and if he will make a statement on Government targets for the employment rate in the UK. [181903]

Mr. Timms: The information requested, as well as information on all those aged 16 and over in employment, is given in the following tables.

The Government's aim is to maximise employment opportunity for all, with a long-term aspiration of an employment rate of 80 per cent.

Table A: UK population

	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	(ii) WA employment	(iii) 16+ employment
Q2 1997	72.90	25,700,000	26,500,000
Q2 1999	73.90	26,300,000	27,100,000
Q2 2001	74.50	26,900,000	27,700,000
Q2 2002	74.50	27,000,000	27,900,000
Q2 2003	74.80	27,300,000	28,200,000
Q2 2004	74.70	27,400,000	28,400,000
Q2 2005	74.70	27,700,000	28,700,000
Q1 2006	74.60	27,800,000	28,900,000
Q2 2006	74.60	27,800,000	29,000,000
Q3 2006	74.50	27,900,000	29,000,000
Q4 2006	74.50	27,900,000	29,100,000
Q1 2007	74.30	27,900,000	29,100,000
Q2 2007	74.40	27,900,000	29,200,000
Q3 2007	74.40	28,000,000	29,200,000
Q4 2007	74.70	28,100,000	29,400,000

Table B: UK Nationals

	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	(ii) WA employment	(iii) 16+ employment
Q2 1997	73.2	24,600,000	25,400,000
Q2 1999	74.3	25,100,000	25,900,000
Q2 2001	75.0	25,500,000	26,200,000
Q2 2002	75.0	25,500,000	26,400,000
Q2 2003	75.3	25,600,000	26,500,000
Q2 2004	75.1	25,600,000	26,600,000
Q2 2005	75.2	25,600,000	26,600,000
Q1 2006	74.9	25,500,000	26,600,000
Q2 2006	74.8	25,400,000	26,500,000
Q3 2006	75.2	25,600,000	26,700,000
Q4 2006	75.0	25,400,000	26,600,000
Q1 2007	74.6	25,200,000	26,400,000
Q2 2007	74.8	25,200,000	26,400,000
Q3 2007	75.3	25,400,000	26,600,000
Q4 2007	75.5	25,400,000	26,700,000

Table C: UK Born

	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	(ii) WA employment	(iii) 16+ employment
Q2 1997	73.5	23,600,000	24,400,000
Q2 1999	74.6	24,100,000	24,800,000
Q2 2001	75.4	24,400,000	25,200,000
Q2 2002	75.3	24,400,000	25,200,000
Q2 2003	75.7	24,500,000	25,300,000
Q2 2004	75.5	24,500,000	25,400,000
Q2 2005	75.6	24,400,000	25,400,000
Q1 2006	75.3	24,300,000	25,300,000
Q2 2006	75.2	24,200,000	25,200,000
Q3 2006	75.7	24,300,000	25,400,000
Q4 2006	75.5	24,200,000	25,300,000
Q1 2007	75.0	24,000,000	25,100,000
Q2 2007	75.2	23,900,000	25,100,000
Q3 2007	75.6	24,100,000	25,200,000
Q4 2007	75.9	24,100,000	25,300,000

Table D: Foreign nationals

	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	(ii) WA employment	(iii) 16+ Employment
Q2 1997	60.3	930,000	960,000
Q2 1999	60.0	980,000	1,000,000
Q2 2001	61.5	1,150,000	1,190,000
Q2 2002	62.0	1,230,000	1,270,000
Q2 2003	62.6	1,320,000	1,350,000
Q2 2004	64.8	1,430,000	1,460,000
Q2 2005	63.8	1,520,000	1,550,000
Q1 2006	66.9	1,690,000	1,720,000
Q2 2006	67.8	1,760,000	1,800,000
Q3 2006	68.9	1,830,000	1,870,000
Q4 2006	68.6	1,880,000	1,930,000

Table D: Foreign nationals

	(i) Employment rate (percentage)	*(ii) WA employment*	*(iii) 16+ Employment*
Q1 2007	66.7	1,900,000	1,940,000
Q2 2007	67.8	2,010,000	2,050,000
Q3 2007	68.4	2,020,000	2,060,000
Q4 2007	68.1	2,080,000	2,110,000

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000 (in the case of foreign nationals to the nearest 10,000).
2. Tables B to D are not seasonally adjusted. This means direct comparisons between different quarters are not possible.
3. The figures in Table A are seasonally adjusted headline employment figures based on population estimates published in 2006.
4. In order to provide the more detailed breakdown that is required to answer the second part of the question in Tables B to D, it is necessary to use data that are based on population estimates made in 2003—these are the latest estimates available for use in respect of particular categories of the labour force such as migrants. The figures in Table A are based on population estimates published in 2006 and as such the figures presented in Tables B to D are not directly comparable to the figures in Table A. The totals for the UK population as a whole—Table A—will not be equal to the sum of the numbers shown for UK and foreign nationals—Tables B and D respectively. In May 2008, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will be releasing re-weighted data based on 2007 population estimates, which will lead to some changes in the figures in the tables.
5. Tables B to D exclude individuals whose nationality is unknown.
6. As these figures are based on a sample survey they are also subject to sampling variability.
7. It should be noted that the nationality question in the LFS is an undercount because: it excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months; it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent; it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc); it is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for twelve months or more.

Source:

Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Employment: Hearing Impaired

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to help deaf people into employment. [202742]

Mr. Timms: We are committed to helping all people, including deaf people, into suitable, sustainable employment through Jobcentre Plus.

Access to Work can provide a range of individually tailored support to enable disabled people to enter or stay in employment. Access to Work can fund specialist support for deaf and hearing impaired people in work. One type of support that deaf people may find particularly helpful is the funding provided through Access to Work for British Sign Language Interpreters, Lip Speakers or Palantypists.

People with health conditions, including deaf people, may also benefit from the help that is available through Pathways to Work. This service provides extra support and opportunities to help people with health problems and disabilities gain employment and retain it. Pathways to Work provides a series of interviews with an adviser and access to programmes to increase skills or confidence, or to help manage a health condition. Financial incentives may also be available to help people move into work.

Disability Employment Advisers in Jobcentre Plus work with people needing more extensive support. They need not be receiving benefits and may be in employment but worried about losing their job due to their disability. Disability employment advisers can advise on appropriate employment opportunities, act as advocates on the customer's behalf, and negotiate with employers, as well as refer people, where appropriate, for an occupational health assessment, or draw on the professional expertise of work psychologists specialising in working with disabled people. Disability employment advisers can also advise on specialised support available for disabled people. This includes Work Preparation, WORKSTEP, New Deal for Disabled People where it is in operation, Residential Training Colleges, Job Introduction Scheme and Access to Work.

Between December last year and March of this year, we undertook a public consultation 'Helping people achieve their full potential: Improving specialist disability employment services'. The consultation sought views about ways in which the Access to Work programme and other programmes for disabled people could be further improved, and ways to enhance aspects of the disability employment adviser role. We will publish our response during the summer.

Housing Benefit: Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each of the eight local authority pilot areas have *(a)* received written warnings for housing benefit sanction and *(b)* had their housing benefit withdrawn because of antisocial behaviour. [203244]

Mr. Plaskitt: So far none of the local authorities taking part in the pilot for the sanction of housing benefit related to antisocial behaviour has issued a written warning or applied a sanction.

Housing Benefit: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much each local authority in Wales repaid to the Exchequer in respect of underspent funds allocated for discretionary housing payments in each of the last five financial years. [203521]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Amount of repaid, underspent discretionary housing payment in each local authority in Wales in the last five financial years

£

Local authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Blaenau Gwent	3,000	4,000	—	4,000	3,000
Bridgend	0	5,000	5,000	0	2,000
Caerphilly	26,000	28,000	19,000	16,000	—
Cardiff	14,000	0	0	0	0
Carmarthenshire	19,000	12,000	13,000	19,000	9,000

Amount of repaid, underspent discretionary housing payment in each local authority in Wales in the last five financial years

Local authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	£ *2006-07*
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy	4,000	0	0	0	3,000
Denbighshire	12,000	7,000	14,000	15,000	5,000
Flintshire	24,000	25,000	1,000	0	0
Gwynedd	3,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
Isle of Anglesey	7,000	8,000	0	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	10,000	11,000	8,000	3,000	0
Monmouthshire	15,000	6,000	5,000	11 ,000	15,000
Neath Port Talbot	4,000	1,000	14,000	10,000	6,000
Newport	24,000	23,000	15,000	0	0
Pembrokeshire	25,000	18,000	10,000	7,000	0
Powys Rhondda	10,000	10,000	4,000	5,000	2,000
Cynon Taff	31 ,000	24,000	29,000	21,000	5,000
Swansea	49,000	41,000	23,000	9,000	0
Torfaen Vale of	8,000	11,000	0	0	0
Glamorgan	19,000	5,000	31,000	34,000	21,000
Wrexham	25,000	24,000	19,000	15,000	17,000
Total	330,000	270,000	220,000	170,000	90,000

Notes:
1. Amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Amounts too small after rounding are shown with a dash.
2. Totals are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
3. The latest available audited expenditure information for discretionary housing payments is for the financial year 2006-07.
4. Zero indicates local authorities who did not underspend.

Jobcentre Plus

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1405W, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on Jobcentre Plus's investigation into the feasibility of introducing advance payments. [202207]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 12 May 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1405W, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on Jobcentre Plus's investigation into the feasibility of introducing advance payments. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I have no plans to place a copy of the report in the Library as this is subject to ongoing policy development. I would be pleased to arrange for you to be briefed by one of my senior officials, if you would find that helpful.

Pensioners: Low Incomes

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners that will have a weekly income below the minimum income guarantee in each year to 2050; and what proportion of these will be *(a)* women, *(b)* aged over 75, *(c)* aged over 80 and *(d)* aged over 85 years. [200645]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pension credit ensures that no-one aged 60 and over need live on an income of less than £124.05 a week. We want every pensioner to claim the benefits to which they are entitled which is why The Pension Service continue to undertake a wide range of activities to encourage people to claim the pension credit they are entitled to, including data matching to identify those who may be eligible but who are not receiving benefits, home visits for vulnerable customers and ever closer working with partner organisations.

Social Security Benefits

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will *(a)* undertake an impact assessment of the proposal to reduce the backdating period for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit claims and *(b)* make it his policy to publish the assessment before implementing any change in policy. [203686]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2174W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 49W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, whether *(a)* elements of British forces will have a command relationship subordinate to the US 24th Marine Expeditionary Force and *(b)* elements of the US 24th Marine Expeditionary Force will have a command relationship subordinate to British forces in 2008. [203581]

Des Browne: Both Task Force Helmand and the US 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit are under the control of the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force.

British forces will be neither commanded by, nor in command of the US 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, but individual arrangements may be made between UK and US forces as dictated by the practical execution of military operations.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of *(a)* infantry battalions, *(b)* helicopters, *(c)* aircraft and *(d)* training teams available to NATO forces deployed in Afghanistan to achieve their objectives. [203776]

Des Browne: The Bucharest summit saw a number of nations make significant additional commitments to the International Security Assistance Force; in particular President Sarkozy confirmed the deployment of an additional battalion of French troops to the east of the country.

Nevertheless, there remains a need for more training and mentoring personnel; combat forces in the south and east of Afghanistan; and key enablers, such as helicopters and other aircraft, to meet the Combined Joint Statement of Requirements for Afghanistan. The UK continues to work with partners to address these shortfalls.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel are deployed on operations, broken down by location. [205127]

Des Browne: The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 28 April 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	14,410
of which:	
Afghanistan	8,900
Iraq	4,000
Qatar	410
Cyprus	280
Kuwait	260
Oman	210
Kosovo	140
At Sea	80
Bahrain	80
Other	40

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per Country include Bosnia, Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia. With the exception of Bosnia, personnel in these countries are participating in smaller UN operations, e.g. we contribute five military personnel to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

Notes:

1. Figures for Iraq and Afghanistan have been rounded to the nearest 100 for operational security reasons. Other figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding, the total is not equal to the sum of the individual locations.
2. Figures for Afghanistan are artificially high due to the handover period while a Relief In Place (RIP) is in operation. The operational establishment for Afghanistan is 7,800.

Armed Forces: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the change in the budget of the armed forces in *(a)* cash, *(b)* real and *(c)* percentage terms will be in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11 over the preceding year in each case; and if he will make a statement. [200274]

Des Browne: The defence budget over the years 2007-08 to 2010-11 can be found in the 2004 spending review (CM6237) and the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review (CM7227) White Papers. These figures can be converted to real terms using the GDP deflator, available on HM Treasury's website.

Armed Forces: Housing

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many homes for service personnel there are in *(a)* Northumberland and *(b)* County Durham. [203785]

Derek Twigg: There are 294 service family accommodation properties in Northumberland and 54 in County Durham.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which unit will provide the Spearhead Land Element requirement for the UK during the service in Kosovo of the 2nd Battalion The Rifles. [204566]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 3 SCOTS will be providing the Spearhead Land Element requirement for the UK while 2 Rifles are deployed in Kosovo.

Armed Forces: Young Offenders

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Ministry of Justice on employing the armed forces on training programmes with young offenders; how many armed forces personnel he expects to be involved in such programmes; what proportion of the cost for such programmes will be borne by his Department; and how much that is expected to be. [203413]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There has been a preliminary discussion between MOJ and MOD on the wider issue of strengthening the links between the armed forces and Prison Service to broaden the scope of opportunities for ex-offenders within the military. There are currently no plans to employ members of the armed forces on training programmes with young offenders.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the procurement of Ridgeback armoured vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [203206]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 482W.

Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average tour interval for each battalion in the *(a)* infantry and *(b)* Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was in the latest period for which figures are available; [200943]

(2) what the average tour interval was for each regiment in the *(a)* Royal Artillery, *(b)* Royal Engineers, *(c)* Royal Logistic Corps and *(d)* Royal Corps of Signals in the latest period for which figures are available. [200954]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Historical data to support the calculation of the average tour interval for each battalion or regiment of the infantry or the Royal Artillery are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As at 1 April 2008, the last tour interval for each battalion of the infantry and each regiment of the Royal Artillery is shown in the following tables.

Infantry unit tour intervals

Unit deployed	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
1 Gren GDS	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	September 2006	8
1 Coldm GDS	Afghanistan	October 2007	Iraq	October 2005	23
1 SG	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	April 2005	31
1 IG	Iraq	June 2007	Northern Ireland	March 2004	38
1 WG	Balkans	October 2006	Iraq	Apr 2005	17
1 Scots (1 RS)[1]	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	May 2006	18
1 Scots (1 KOSB)[1]	Iraq	December 2007	Northern Ireland	July 2006	16
2 Scots	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	October 2004	41
3 Scots	Iraq	July 2004	Iraq	June 2003	12
4 Scots	Iraq	November 2005	Balkans	October 2003	24
5 Scots	Afghanistan	April 2008	Balkans	October 2005	29
1 PWRR	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	October 2004	18
2 PWRR	Iraq	January 2005	Northern Ireland	December 2003	12
1 RRF	Iraq	November 2005	Iraq	June 2003	28
2 RRF	Northern Ireland	April 2003	Northern Ireland	June 2002	9
1 R Anglian	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	October 2005	18
2 R Anglian	Iraq	May 2006	Afghanistan	October 2003	30
1 Korbr[2]	Iraq	November 2005	Balkans	October 2000	60
1 Kings[2]	Iraq	July 2003	Prior to January 1999	—	—
QLR[2]	Iraq	July 2003	Northern Ireland	September 2001	21
1 Lancs[2]	Iraq	December 2007	n/a	—	—
2 Lancs[2]	Iraq	November 2006	n/a	—	—
1 Yorks	Iraq	November 2006	Balkans	September 2004	25
2 Yorks	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	September 2006	12
3 Yorks	Iraq	November 2004	Balkans	June 2001	40
1 R Welsh	Cyprus (Theatre Reserve Battalion)	May 2007	Northern Ireland	January 2006	15
2 R Welsh	Iraq	June 2007	Iraq	October 2005	19
1 Mercian	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	October 2004	37
2 Mercian	Afghanistan	May 2007	Afghanistan	April 2005	24
3 Mercian	Iraq	November 2006	Iraq	October 2005	12
1 Rifles (1 RGBW)[3]	Afghanistan	October 2005	Northern Ireland	July 2003	26
1 Rifles (1 D&D)[3]	Iraq	May 2006	Northern Ireland	March 2001	61
1 Rifles	—	—	—	—	—
2 Rifles	Iraq	November 2006	Northern Ireland	September 2004	25
3 Rifles	Iraq	September 2006	Northern Ireland	March 2005	17
4 Rifles	Iraq	June 2007	Balkans	October 2001	67
5 Rifles	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	April 2004	24
IR Irish	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2005	27
1 Para[4]	Northern Ireland	March 2005	Iraq	June 2003	20
2 Para	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	April 2006	23
3 Para	Afghanistan	April 2008	Afghanistan	October 2006	17
1 RGR	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	March 2006	18
2 RGR	Afghanistan	April 2005	Afghanistan	April 2004	11

[1] 1 RS and 1 KOSB amalgamated to form 1 Scots in August 2006. 1 Scots is to deploy for the first time as a formed unit to Iraq in December 2007. For the purposes of this question, 1 Scots was counted as one unit with a tour interval of 17 months.

[2] 1 Korbr, 1 Kings and QLR amalgamated in July 2006 to form 1 Lancs and 2 Lancs. Operation Telic 11 will be the first unit operational deployment for 1 Lancs. Because of the nature of this amalgamation, it is not representative to calculate the average tour intervals of 1 Lancs and 2 Lancs based on the previous operational deployments of 1 Korbr, 1 Kings and QLR, as such for the purpose of this question, no unit tour interval value for 1 Korbr, 1 Kings, QLR, 1 Lancs or 2 Lancs was included in the calculation.

[3] 1 RGBW and 1 DDLI amalgamated in March 2007 to form 1 Rifles. 1 Rifles has yet to deploy as a formed unit. For the purposes of this question, 1 Rifles was counted as one unit with a tour interval of 43.5 months.

[4] 1 Para transferred to directorate special forces in August 2005 and for the purposes of this question, no unit tour interval value was included in the calculation.

Royal Artillery unit tour intervals

Unit deployed	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
1 RHA	Iraq	June 2007	Cyprus	September 2005	20
3 RHA	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	April 2006	19
4 Regt RA	Afghanistan	October 2007	Cyprus	September 2006	12
7 Para RHA	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2003	51
19 Regt RA	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	October 2005	18
26 Regt RA	Iraq	May 2006	Cyprus	April 2005	12
29 Cdo Regt RA	Afghanistan	October2006	Iraq	May 2003	40
40 Regt RA	Iraq	November 2006	Cyprus	September 2004	25

The unit tour interval is a less relevant measure when applied to the Corps of Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Signals and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This is due to the frequency with which personnel move between formed units within these Corps (the personnel deployed with a unit will be substantially different from the personnel deployed with the same unit on a previous occasion). Unit tour interval data for these Corps are not therefore, routinely collated.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what period has elapsed since personnel serving with 2nd Battalion The Rifles were last deployed on operations. [204560]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 2 Rifles are due to deploy to Kosovo shortly. Their previous deployment was to Iraq from November 2006 to March 2007.

BAE Systems

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with BAE Systems. [204355]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ministers and officials at varying levels hold numerous discussions with BAE systems regularly. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bombs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Foreign Secretary on negotiations towards a legally binding treaty to prohibit cluster munitions. [204353]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has held a number of discussions with the Foreign Secretary recently to determine how best to achieve a legally binding instrument that will prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of those cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Defence Estates: Assets

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assets were held by Defence Estates in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland at the latest date for which information is available; what the estimated value of each asset is; and if he will make a statement. [204740]

Derek Twigg: Details of all Ministry of Defence (MOD) holdings over £1 million and their latest asset valuation are available in Chapter 7 of the National Asset Register (CM7022), which can be found on HM Treasury's website. All land and building assets of the MOD are held by Defence Estates. All other assets of Defence Estates are held by Defence Equipment and Support.

Providing details of all property below £1 million in value could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Estates: Sales

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors determine the distribution of receipts from the sale of Defence Estates' property between devolved administrations and Government budgets other than those of Defence Estates. [204738]

Derek Twigg: In line with HM Treasury guidance, receipts retained by the Ministry of Defence from the sale of Defence Estates property are reinvested by the Department in key priorities.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from defence equipment suppliers on the effects on them of the separation of the emissions trading scheme; and if he will make a statement. [203803]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No known representations on emissions trading have been received.

Departmental ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to ensure that counterfeit routers and other counterfeit hardware are not utilised in his Department's computer networks. [203242]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm whether they hold information about malicious attacks against their IT systems.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199056]

Derek Twigg: We are waiting for the successor to the civil service 10 point plan, to be released in late 2008, before determining further targets.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated total cost has been of equipment gifted to the Iraqi forces in each year since 2003. [183079]

Des Browne: The estimated total cost of equipment gifted to the Iraqi Security Forces per financial year is as follows:

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2003-04	21,500.00
2004-05	12,678,300.00
2005-06	7,518,200.00
2006-07	3,357,400.00
2007-08	[1]341,600.00

[1] This includes costs until 28 March 2008

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units have served *(a)* one tour, *(b)* two tours and *(c)* three tours and more in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [190602]

Des Browne: These data are not currently held in the format requested. Officials are working to collate this information from a number of sources. I will therefore write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Des Browne to Liam Fox:

I undertook to reply to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 17 March 2008 (Official Report Column 815-6W) about the number of tours of Iraq and Afghanistan undertaken by Units. I am now in a position to be able to reply.

The information which you requested is shown the table below:

Unit	*Iraq*	*Afghanistan*	*Total*
1 Grenadier Guards	1	1	2
1 Coldstream Guards	1	1	2
1 Scots Guards	2	—	2
1 Irish Guards	2	—	2
1 Welsh Guards	1	—	1
1 Scots (Royal Scots)	2	—	2
1 Scots (Kings Own Scottish Borderers)	1	—	1
2 Scots (Royal Highland Fusiliers)	2	1	3
3 Scots (Black Watch)	2	—	2
4 Scots (Highlanders)	2	—	2
5 Scots (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders)		1	1
1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	2	—	2
2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	1	—	1
1 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	2	—	2
1 Royal Anglian	1	2	3
2 Royal Anglian	1	1	2
2 Lancs (Kings)	3	—	3
2 Lancs (Queens)	1	—	1
3 Lancs (Kings Own Royal Border Regiment)	2	—	2
1 Yorks (Prince of Wales)	1	—	1
2 Yorks (Green Howards)	—	2	2
3 Yorks (Duke of Wellington)	1	—	1
1 Mercian (Cheshires)	2	—	2
2 Mercian (WFR)	1	2	3
3 Mercian (Staffords)	2	—	2
1 Rifles (Devon and Dorset Light Infantry)	1	1	2
2 Rifles (1 Royal Green Jackets)	1	—	1
3 Rifles (2 Light Infantry)	1	—	1
4 Rifles (2 Royal Green Jackets)	1	—	1
5 Rifles (1 Light Infantry)	2	—	2
1 Royal Irish	2	—	2
1 Para	1	—	1
2 Para	1	2	3
3 Para	1	1	2
1 Royal Gurkha Rifles	—	1	1
2 Royal Gurkha Rifles	—	2	2
1 Royal Welsh	1	—	1
2 Royal Welsh	3	—	3
Household Cavalry Regt	1	—	1
Queen's Dragoon Guards	2	—	2
Scots Dragoon Guards	2	—	2
Royal Dragoon Guards	1	—	1
QRH	2	—	2
9/12 Lancers	2	—	2
KRH	2	—	2
Light Dragoons	2	1	3
QRL	1	—	1
2 Royal Tank Regt	1	—	1
1 Royal Horse Artillery	2	—	2
3 Royal Horse Artillery	2	—	2
4 Regt Royal Artillery	1	—	1
7 Para Royal Horse Artillery	1	2	3
19 Regt Royal Artillery	1	—	1
26 Regt Royal Horse Artillery	2	—	2
29 Cdo Regt Royal Artillery	1	1	2
40 Regt Royal Artillery	2	—	2
3 Cdo Bde Royal Marines	1	2	3
40 Cdo RM	2	1	3
42 Cdo RM	1	1	2
45 Cdo RM	—	2	2
Cdo Logistics Regt RM	1	1	2
Commander UK Amphibious Forces	1	1	2
1 Force Protection Wing RAF Regt	4	1	5
2 Force Protection Wing RAF Regt	3	1	4
3 Force Protection Wing RAF Regt	4	1	5
4 Force Protection Wing RAF Regt	2	—	2
5 Force Protection Wing RAF Regt	1	1	2
6 Force Protection Wing RAF Regt	1	—	1
7 Force Protection Wing RAF Regt (Tactical Police Wing)	1	1	2
1 Sqn RAF Regt	3	—	3
2 Sqn RAF Regt	3	1	4
3 Sqn RAF Regt	2	1	3
15 Sqn RAF Regt	1	1	2
34 Sqn RAF Regt	3	1	4

Unit	Iraq	Afghanistan	Total
51 Sqn RAF Regt	3	1	4
63 Sqn RAF Regt (Queen's Colour Sqn)	2	—	2

This has proved to be a complex question to answer. You will be aware that most Infantry battalions have deployed on operations at least once in the last five years. The Infantry tend to deploy as formed units with the tour intervals in relation to Army units being based on (a) 'Units' defined as any Regiment deploying with a Regimental Headquarters and more than two Sub Units and (b) 'deployment' as any Unit deploying for four months or more. The Army's Harmony Guidelines recommend that Army units achieve 24 months between each six month operational tour.

Elements from other Arms and Services regularly deploy as sub-units, on attachment to other units, or as individual augmentees. For example, this is the case for Royal Engineers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel. Information on some units, such as Logistics have not been included in the return as this would incur disproportionate cost. Although other Corps may deploy with an RHQ and two or more sub units, it may not always be with the same formation or with the same individuals and would therefore make the information very difficult to collate.

A Squadron is the key unit of deployment for the RAF and figures are collated accordingly. Additional Wings have been formed due to the increasing demand for Force Protection and this is the reason why some Wings have deployed fewer than others.

You can see from the table that while some Army units have undertaken three deployments, others have only completed one. Whilst operations have been continuing in Iraq and Afghanistan, units will also have been covering endorsed standing Military tasks such as commitments in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, the Balkans and the Falkland Islands as well as Public Duties, in addition to conducting essential training and recuperating from operations. Moreover, there have been occasions where one or two sub units of a Battalion or Regiment have deployed, but these instances do not qualify as unit deployments and are therefore not included in the table.

I am sorry that this information has taken so long to compile, but its collation has involved trawling through a substantial amount of information to ensure as full and accurate a response as possible based on the criteria set out above. Now that this detail has been gathered it will be maintained to prevent any such delay occurring in the future.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen and women normally resident in East Dunbartonshire were serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan at the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such service personnel have served in each country in the last five years. [204553]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* Data on the UK residential location of armed forces personnel are not held centrally in databases of individual records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army are on active service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [204561]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 31 March 2008, there were 512 members of the Territorial Army serving in the Afghanistan Joint Operational Area (JOA), and 122 in the Iraq JOA.

Joint Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 58W, on the Joint Rapid Reaction Force, which units will form the UK's commitment to the Headquarters Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps from July to December 2008. [203475]

Des Browne: The Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) is a High Readiness Force (Land) assigned to NATO. Sixty per cent. of its established posts are found by the UK. Headquarters ARRC's intimate supporting elements are Headquarters 1 Signal Brigade, 252 Close Support Squadron, the ARRC Support Battalion and 12 Military Intelligence Company.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on providing the strategic airlift required to deploy the UK's commitment for NATO's Operational Reserve Force in Kosovo. [203217]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None. Our forward planning for this task will allow us to make maximum use of commercial charter aircraft.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment will be made available to the UK operational reserve battalion for its deployment to Kosovo. [204140]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Equipment to be made available to the UK Operational Reserve Battalion includes Snatch Land Rovers, standard Land Rovers, Saxon personnel carriers, 4-ton trucks, engineering equipment, battlefield ambulances, riot control equipment (including shields and batons), body armour, personal light weapons and communications equipment, along with general items such as fuel, food, personal kit, vehicle spares and ammunition.

The overall need for airlift has been reduced by the pre-positioning of heavy equipment by road. Commercially chartered aircraft will be used for the transfer of personnel and further equipment wherever possible although some military aircraft have been allocated for use where necessary.

Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department has imposed a 65-tonne weight limit on commercial loads which can be handled on the Falklands Jetty at Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre; when this limit was determined; whether its impact on the planning consent given for the construction plans for the new Marchwood Power Station was considered before the limit was laid down; and if he will make a statement. [204537]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* An internal review of the Falklands Jetty at the Sea Mounting Centre (SMC) Marchwood was carried out in 2005. It was concluded that the Jetty can continue to routinely handle military and commercial loads

weighing up to 65 tonnes. While requests for the Jetty to be used for heavier loads are still considered, these tend to be handled through alternative facilities at the SMC. The SMC holds no records to suggest it was involved in the planning considerations for the Power Station in 2001-02.

Since Marchwood Power Limited started utilising the SMC in August 2007, the MOD has worked closely with the company to ensure that its requirements are met as practicably and safely as possible.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the weight limit is for military loads which can be handled on the Falklands Jetty at Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre; [204538]

(2) what the weight was of the heaviest load handled on the Falkland Jetty at Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre since 2001. [204544]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* Since 2005, the heaviest piece of equipment that can routinely be handled from the Falklands Jetty is the military Challenger II tank, which weighs 65 tonnes. These vehicles are, however, usually loaded via Roll-On/Roll-Off facilities at the SMC's quayside. Requests for the Jetty to be used for heavier loads are still considered although these tend to be handled through alternative facilities at the Sea Mounting Centre. Prior to 2005, the heaviest load handled from the Falklands Jetty was a 215 tonne reactor in 2001.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment was made of the *(a)* effect on traffic from the Port of Southampton to the Marchwood Power Station site and *(b)* cost of delivering the main heavy plant for the power station by road, when the decision to impose a 65 tonne limit on commercial loads handled at the Falkland Jetty at the Sea Mounting Centre was taken; [204545]

(2) if he will instruct his Department to give permission for up to 12 loads to be delivered to the new Marchwood Power Station via the Sea Mounting Centre and exempted from the 65 tonne limit. [204546]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: When the decision to impose a routine weight restriction of 65 tonnes for loads on the Falklands Jetty was made in 2005, no assessment was carried out by MOD of the effects on traffic or the cost of delivering such loads by road. This is because an alternative loading solution exists that involves the acceptance of heavier loads using a floating crane to lift them over the Sea Mounting Centre's quay wall either onto the quayside or waiting rail transportation. To date, some 36 loads for the Marchwood Power Station, weighing between 98 and 171 tonnes, have been moved in this way.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serviceable helicopters are available to *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force; and how many were available to each in 2005. [204194]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: For the purposes of MOD reporting, a serviceable helicopter is defined as one that is used, is capable of being used or could be made ready for a period of two hours flying within a planned flying programme. Fit For Purpose is the metric that is used to measure serviceability, and the figures in the table represent the average Fit For Purpose figures for the month of March in each of the specified years. The numbers of helicopters that are considered to be Fit For Purpose will vary from day to day due, primarily, to routine maintenance requirements, and does not include helicopters in transit.

The number of serviceable helicopters available in the Forward Fleet for the month of March in 2005 and 2008, broken down by Service are shown as follows:

	March	
	2005	*2008*
Royal Navy		
Sea King HC Mk 4 and 6	19	16
Lynx Mk 3	16	12
Lynx Mk 8	13	14
Merlin Mk 1	10	13
Sea King Mk 5	5	7
Sea King Mk 7	6	4
RN total	69	66
Army Air Corps		
Apache AH Mk 1	22	25
Agusta A 109	3	3
Lynx Mk 7 and 9	47	39
Gazelle HC Mk 1	58	36
AAC total	130	103
Royal Air Force		
Chinook HC Mk 2	18	21
Merlin HC Mk 3	6	8
Puma MC Mk 1	19	13
SAR Sea King Mk 3/3a	Not available	18
RAF total	43	60
Total FFP	242	229

The figures for 2008 do not include the eight RAF Chinook Mark 3 helicopters that are being converted to a Battlefield role but do include three of the six RAF Merlin helicopters recently acquired from Denmark, as announced by the Secretary of State on 30 March 2007. The figures for 2008 also reflect the planned reductions in the Gazelle and Lynx Mk 7 fleets. The number of serviceable Apache will increase as the capability continues to be fielded.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Territorial Army personnel are drawn from *(a)* small, *(b)* medium and *(c)* large businesses. [204607]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Figures for the Territorial Army are not available separately from the rest of the Volunteer Reserve Forces (VRF). Latest data show that, of the 59 per cent. of VRF with employers:

27 per cent. work for employers with one to nine employees

26 per cent. work for employers with 10 to 49 employees

23 per cent. work for employers with 50 to 200 employees

10 per cent. work for employers with 200 to 500 employees

14 per cent. work for employers with 500+ employees.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much money was spent by his Department on aid programmes for Africa in each year since 2004, broken down by development objective. [201664]

Gillian Merron: Department for International Development (DFID) expenditure, both bilateral and multilateral, on aid programmes for Africa since 2004 is set out in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure (GPEX) on development to Africa 2004-05 to 2006-07, by sector

£000

Sector	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Education	125,471	136,345	157,340
Health	173,165	199,822	221,070
Social	60,627	98,863	93,845
Economic	123,722	171,140	135,278
Livelihoods	46,254	37,661	35,927
Governance	121,169	153,548	159,491
Environment	12,064	15,821	8,147
Humanitarian Assistance	135,572	263,991	226,475
Sector Unallocated	39,924	62,631	97,431
Total bilateral	867,969	1,139,822	1,135,002

Table 2: Imputed DFID share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 2004-05 to 2006-07

£000

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Africa Multilateral	476,838	587,270	824,768

The DFID imputed share of multilateral ODA cannot be broken down by sector. A full statistical report of DFID's international development expenditure is published annually and may be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sid2007/contents.asp

Burma: Storms

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Burma following the recent cyclone; and what UK assistance has been offered to Burma; [204620]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to seek to ensure that humanitarian agencies are permitted access to cyclone-affected parts of Burma; and if he will make a statement. [204621]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the statement that I made in the House on 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 863.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204111]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is a member of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). The GCOF aims to fulfil the Government's commitment to offset emissions attributable to all official and ministerial air travel in central Government. It is available to all central Government Departments and provides a simple and cost-effective way to offset, as well as ensuring high environmental integrity. The GCOF runs for an initial period of three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09).

The GCOF is being managed by EEA Fund Management Ltd. who won the contract to source and deliver 255,000 Certified Emission Reduction Credits, with a provision for a further 50,000 credits over three years from a range of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. Credits will be supplied from the project portfolio of Trading Emissions Plc, to whom EEA is the investment adviser.

DFID has to date contributed £175,741 to the scheme, paid during 2007-08 in respect of air travel during 2006-07.

DFID is currently focussing its efforts on reducing carbon emissions from its estate, including the implementation of equipment and procedures to maximise energy efficiency equipment, which for instance has in recent months reduced our electricity consumption in our London Headquarters by over 10 per cent. We were also recently awarded the Energy Efficiency Accreditation certification. Once these measures have been implemented we will make appropriate arrangements to offset any residual carbon emissions.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1182W, on departmental data protection, if he will include information assurance data on data loss incidents in previous years in his Department's next annual report. [199178]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179 and the written ministerial statement made my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data.

The interim report of 17 December 2007 committed to put in place a programme to examine and improve data handling procedures. An update on this commitment

will be included in the final report, expected in spring 2008, and this report will detail the information to be included by Departments on data loss in their annual reports

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the significance of policies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions related to energy for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals related to the world's poorest countries. [203551]

Mr. Thomas: Our assessment is that policies to reduce energy-related carbon dioxide emissions need not limit efforts to improve energy access in the world's poorest countries; indeed these two objectives could in some instances be complementary.

Policies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions will include adopting cleaner technologies, improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy. In the longer term it will require the use of emerging technologies such as carbon capture and storage.

In developing countries, improved access to reliable and affordable energy services is needed in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Energy access is lowest in rural areas, notably in sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia, often beyond the reach of grid-connected supplies. In these cases, decentralised energy production, using a wide range of renewable and conventional technologies, may offer the best solutions for increasing access to poor households and communities. A recent study by the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme concluded that renewable energy is more economical than conventional energy for many such applications.

Developing Countries: Education

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided for education in recent humanitarian responses in *(a)* Kenya, *(b)* Mozambique, *(c)* Bangladesh and *(d)* Chad. [202752]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided both direct and indirect support for education as part of its global response to recent humanitarian crises. In Bangladesh, the UK and other donors provided 400 temporary classrooms following the cyclone in November 2007. Other DFID-funded immediate relief helped to buy textbooks and other learning material for children in the affected areas, as well as providing technical support to help the Bangladesh Government develop a long-term school reconstruction plan.

In Kenya, Mozambique and Chad direct support to education was not provided early on in the crises as DFID's humanitarian response aimed to address the most basic humanitarian needs first—shelter, food, clean water and health.

UK humanitarian support is also provided through the UN's Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) where DFID remains the largest donor. In 2006, the CERF released approximately £500,000 to UNICEF for education interventions in Chad. Of this allocation, the UK's share amounts to approximately £100,000. Since the start of 2008, Mozambique has been allocated £2.4 million from the CERF, with provisions used towards the education sector.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is for tackling HIV/AIDS in the developing world in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [204723]

Gillian Merron: Following a public consultation, the UK Government are currently updating "Taking Action - The UK's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world". The updated strategy is due to be launched in the near future.

Developing Countries: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to promote and protect human rights in developing countries. [204169]

Gillian Merron: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer given to his previous question on 28 April, *Official Report*, column 369W, which gives specific examples of how the UK Government have promoted human rights in developing countries.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office leads the Government's efforts to promote human rights abroad and the Department for International Development (DFID) supports this in developing countries. DFID provides funding to partner governments once assessments have been made to ensure they are committed to respecting human rights as well as reducing poverty and strengthening financial management and accountability. The UK Government policy on integrating human rights into development is set out in the DFID strategy paper: "Realising human rights for poor people", at

www.dfid.gov.uk/publications

Drugs: Patents

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on patent pools for essential medicines. [201942]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government believe that there is merit in examining the benefits that voluntarily established patent pools could bring in facilitating access to medicines. The Department for International Development is participating in a process organised by UNITAID, the international drug purchase facility, which is examining the feasibility of establishing a patent pool for antiretroviral medicines for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

Gaza: UN Relief and Works Agency

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department gives to the work of the UN Relief and Works Agency in Gaza. [204190]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £100 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees in the region for the period 2007-12. This will increase our support from £15.6 million in 2007-08, to £19 million in 2008-09 and then progressively to £23.4 million in 2011-12. Around 10 per cent. of this funding is linked to UNRWA achieving targeted improvements of its management and service delivery.

DFID funding helps UNRWA provide health, education and other services to 4.5 million Palestinian refugees, including over a million refugees in Gaza and over 700,000 in the West Bank. 70 per cent. of Gazans are registered refugees and will therefore benefit from the support we provide to UNRWA. We expect more than 30 per cent. of our funding to UNWRA to be allocated to Gaza.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of farmers in *(a)* Forest of Dean constituency and *(b)* England have not yet received their Single Farm Payment for (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [204032]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

The proportion of English claimants who have not yet received SPS payments are:

2005: 8

2006: 45

2007: 8.3 per cent.

2005 and 2006 numbers are too low to register as meaningful percentages and the outstanding payments for these years relate to complex cases, mainly involving legal and probate issues.

RPA is working to finalise remaining payments as soon as possible.

Air Pollution

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at how many sites in England levels of *(a)* carbon monoxide, *(b)* sulphur dioxide and *(c)* nitrogen dioxide are monitored. [204301]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of sites monitoring levels of the pollutants is currently in flux due to preparations for the implementation of the EU Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe. The number of sites currently in operation is as follows:

		Number of sites
(i)	Carbon monoxide	26
(ii)	Sulphur dioxide	45
(iii)	Nitrogen dioxide	104

Once the directive monitoring requirements are fully implemented the number of sites will be:

		Number of sites
(i)	Carbon monoxide	26
(ii)	Sulphur dioxide	45
(iii)	Nitrogen dioxide	120

Air Pollution: EU Law

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the introduction of the EU Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe. [204299]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions on the new ambient air quality directive.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on changes to the UK automatic monitoring network in preparation for the introduction of the EU Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe. [204300]

Jonathan Shaw: During the negotiation of the EU Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe, DEFRA undertook a review of the automatic monitoring networks taking into account the requirements of the directive.

The changes to the Automatic Urban and Rural, and Hydrocarbons networks fall into three broad areas:

(i) A reduction in the number of carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide monitors, commensurate with the generally low levels of both pollutants currently found. However, there will be increased sulphur dioxide monitoring in some areas around particular industrial hotspots.

(ii) Movement of oxides of nitrogen monitors from agglomerations to zones, and from urban background to roadside.

(iii) The creation of a $PM_{2.5}$ network, and changes to the PM_{10} network. In addition to setting the minimum number of PM monitors to be operated, the directive specifies the ratio of PM_{10}:$PM_{2.5}$ and urban background: roadside sites which must be operated; in both cases this ratio must be between 2:1 and 1:2.

This will result in:

the closure or removal from the network of 20 complete sites

the opening or affiliation into the network of 33 new sites (mainly for PM_{10}/$PM_{2.5}$ and oxides of nitrogen)

the removal of 51 carbon monoxide analysers

the removal of 32 and the addition of five sulphur dioxide analysers

the movement and/or addition of 29 oxides of nitrogen sites

the addition of 67 $PM_{2.5}$ sites

the movement and/or addition of 21 PM_{10} sites

the movement of 11 benzene sites

the removal of 13 and the addition of four ozone sites

To date the following have been completed:

the closure or removal from the network of 20 complete sites (from 1 October 2007).

the dissemination of data from 51 carbon monoxide and 32 sulphur dioxide sites stopped on 1 October 2007.

the addition of 17 local authority sites into the network; a further five sites will be brought into the network during May/June. For the remaining sites, work is ongoing to identify suitable local authority sites to bring into the network.

the purchase of type approved gaseous analysers for DEFRA-owned sites to replace existing non-type approved equipment. These analysers will be installed during routine site visits during 2008.

the installation of 22 reference method equivalent PM_{10} analysers and the procurement of 11 $PM_{2.5}$ analysers.

an OJEU notice has been published to procure the remainder of the particulate matter analysers.

Animals: MRSA

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus in animals. [203489]

Jonathan Shaw: Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) has not been detected in farmed livestock in the UK and there is no current evidence that food-producing animals form a reservoir of infection in the UK. The organism has been isolated from dairy cows, pigs and chickens outside the UK, as well as in companion animals (including cats, dogs and horses) both in the UK and elsewhere. Ongoing monitoring of the international picture is being maintained. A 12-month long study to provide an initial overview of the presence of MRSA in breeding pig herds across Europe began in January 2008. This is being carried out under Community legislation. It is anticipated that the results of this study will be published in mid 2009 and that they will inform the direction of future work by DEFRA.

DEFRA's Antimicrobial Resistance Co-ordination (DARC) Group continues to provide guidance on policy relating to antimicrobial resistance. The membership of the DARC Group reflects a partnership approach and includes representatives from many organisations involved in both human and animal health throughout the UK. DARC created a MRSA sub-group in 2005, through which DEFRA is assisting and encouraging various initiatives relating to MRSA from the Bella Moss Foundation (a UK registered charity promoting awareness of MRSA in animals), industry and the veterinary profession. DEFRA has funded research to better understand the epidemiology of MRSA in companion animals and livestock and any role it may play in human infections.

In addition to chairing the DARC Group, DEFRA's Veterinary Medicines Directorate have used various means including legislation, publication of guidance and liaison with interested parties, such as the RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture) alliance, to achieve a co-ordinated and integrated approach to raise awareness of the issues surrounding antimicrobial resistance in animals and promote the responsible use of antimicrobials.

Beekeeping

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution of beekeeping to the agriculture sector; and if he will make a statement. [204201]

Jonathan Shaw: Through their important role in pollinating flowering plants, honey bees make a vital contribution to sustainable agriculture. Reflecting this, DEFRA continues to fund a programme of controls and education for beekeepers via the National Bee Unit and the Bee Inspectorate.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution of research to the formulation of policy on beekeeping. [204202]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's Bee Health Programme underpins bee health policy and covers work on exotic and statutory pests and diseases of bees. Research is carried out to fill gaps in the knowledge base used to support policy and to allow evidence-based policy decision making. The research should deliver results which can be used by Government and the craft of bee keeping in combating pests and diseases.

Bees

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of recent trends in the bee population; and if he will make a statement. [204199]

Jonathan Shaw: It is too early to assess disease incidence this season although there are indications of some significant colony losses across the country. These are under investigation.

Bees: Disease Control

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research the Government is funding on *(a)* acaricide-resistant varroa destructor and its associated viral diseases, *(b)* European foulbrood, *(c)* bee viruses and *(d)* nosema. [204196]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2008-09, the research programme will continue to focus on the development of a monitoring and surveillance system for the Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida* (Murray)) and assessing the effectiveness of the 'shook swarm' technique for the control of European Foul Brood (EFB). A three-year PhD studentship studying bee viruses, including those that are not transmitted by Varroa, which is based at the University of Surrey, will continue to build on recent progress.

Last year, the National Bee Unit analysed samples for the two Nosema species known to infect bees, *Nosema apis* and *Nosema ceranae*. Both species are present in England and Wales, although exact details of the spread and prevalence of these species are currently unknown.

No research is currently being carried out on *Varroa destructor*. However, this has been identified as a potential future research priority in the draft Bee Health strategy, which has recently been published for public consultation.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons dairy non-pedigree calved females are valued more highly than pedigree calved females over 36 months in tabular valuations related to bovine tuberculosis. [203466]

Jonathan Shaw: To support table valuations, sales data are collected from a large number and wide range of sources across Great Britain. We capture around 98 per cent. of the sales data for cattle sold at public auction, and, in our view, the table valuations reflect the market situation for same category cattle. Table values are only applied for any category in any month if adequate amounts of data have been obtained. Otherwise individual valuation is used to establish market value.

The non-pedigree table value has been higher than the pedigree value for the dairy calved female category on three occasions (between January and March 2008) since monthly table valuations for cattle compensation were introduced in February 2006. This reflected the underlying sales data that we received. I would stress that the approach we take is completely objective; sales data are not manipulated in any way.

Non-pedigree table values are based on one month's data, whereas for pedigree categories we use six months' data to cover seasonal variability in pedigree trade and to obtain adequate amounts of sales data.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of reductions necessary for each household from 2002 to 2050 assuming the current breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions between the different component elements for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by *(a)* 60 per cent. and *(b)* 80 per cent. to be achieved by 2050. [202488]

Mr. Woolas: Under the Climate Change Bill, the Committee on Climate Change must provide its first advice to the Secretary of State before 1 December 2008. That advice must include recommendations on the levels of the first three budgets as well as on the level of the 2050 target. It must also refer to the sectors of the economy in which there are particular opportunities for contributions to be made towards meeting the carbon budget.

The Government will consider the Committee's advice before announcing the first three budgets alongside fiscal Budget 2009. It is required to lay before Parliament a report on proposals and policies for meeting those budgets, including how they affect different sectors of the economy.

The Government's existing package of measures in the household sector, as set out in the 2007 Energy White Paper, is designed to reduce UK household emissions to less than 30 million tonnes of carbon (MtC) from today's level of 40 MtC.

Cetaceans: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which the UK has met its obligations under the EU by-catch regulation (EC) No. 812/2004; and what impact this has had on cetacean populations in UK waters. [203996]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK has reported on its implementation of EC 812/2004 in June 2006 and June 2007. As can be seen from these reports, we have fully met our obligation to monitor cetacean by-catch. This work is being carried out by the Sea Mammal Research Unit, and the annual reports of this research are published on the Departments website. However, technical problems with current designs have precluded full deployment of acoustic deterrent devices. No assessment has been made of the impact of these actions on cetacean populations in UK waters.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many UK vessels are using acoustic deterrent devices to reduce cetacean by-catch . [203997]

Jonathan Shaw: Acoustic deterrent devices, "pingers", are required to be used in certain fisheries under Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004. Prior to enforcing the use of pingers, the UK Government wants to be sure that the pingers we recommend to be used are safe and cost-effective for the industry and offer maximum protection to porpoises. The European Commission has recognised that because of deployment problems, some member states are not able to implement pingers as required by the Council Regulation, and have recommended that member states should continue with trials to develop a working pinger. The Sea Mammal Research Unit are currently looking at the effects that a 'super-pinger' has on the population distribution of porpoises. These 'super-pingers' are larger and therefore fewer devices are required, reducing deployment problems. We will consider the results of this research when it becomes available. We are therefore not aware of how many UK vessels are currently using acoustic deterrent devices to reduce by-catch of cetaceans.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research on cetacean by-catch in UK waters his Department has commissioned. [204000]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has implemented a comprehensive system of by-catch monitoring under the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive and Council Regulation 812/2004. The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) produces annual reports of this research for DEFRA, and these are published on the Department's website.

Since 2000, the UK has put over £2 million into researching by-catch mitigation measures and monitoring by-catch on vessels through observers. This is to try to identify those fisheries responsible for high levels of cetacean by-catch and mitigation measures that are

effective at deterring cetaceans over the long-term and are safe and cost-effective for the industry. We are due to receive the final report project on By-catch Mitigation Research from SMRU at the end of May. A new research contract on this issue has recently been agreed with SMRU.

In 2003, the UK was the first member state to publish a cetacean by-catch response strategy for small cetaceans.

Cetaceans: South West

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the most recent available data on cetacean strandings in Cornwall and Devon. [203995]

Jonathan Shaw: All data on Cetacean strandings across the UK, up to and including the 2006 data, are publicly available on the Defra website in the form of UK Cetacean strandings investigation programme (CSIP) Annual reports:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/.

The 2007 Annual report is currently being drafted and will be available on the website in the near future.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its predecessors spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204105]

Mr. Woolas: Figures currently available cover 2005-06 (where applicable) and 2006-07. Data are currently being collected for the 2007-08 reporting year and will be available later in the year.

DEFRA has paid £60,014.07 into the GCOF, to offset some 6,056tCO_2 equivalent from a variety of sources from April 2005 to April 2007.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200005]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not held centrally, and so the following information is what could be gathered without disproportionate cost. It lists the surveys, questionnaires and other services conducted by third parties which received funding from Defra and which sought opinion, and which were provided in completed and agreed form during the financial year 2007-08.

Company which conducted it	*Title of report*
2CV	Natural Environment Message Testing Research
British Market Research Bureau	ACT ON CO2 climate change campaign, post tracking
British Market Research Bureau	Chewing Gum Action Group Campaign evaluation
British Market Research Bureau	Public awareness of personal food imports
British Market Research Bureau	Public Attitudes Towards Farmers
TNS Omnibus	Omnibus research into Awareness of Endangered Species Trade
British Market Research Bureau	Survey of public attitudes and behaviour in relation to the environment
Brook Lyndhurst	Public Understanding of Sustainable Energy Use in the Home
Centre for Sustainable Energy	Distributional Impacts of Personal Carbon Trading
CML Market Research	Food Campaign—Message Research
Cognition Market Intelligence	VMD Customer Feedback Survey
Continental Research	Business Attitudes to Resource Efficiency
Creative Research	Rabies Restrictions Review Consumer Workshops
Edcomms	Natural Environment Communications Desk Research
Entec UK Ltd.	Understanding the barriers to flood resilience
GfK NOP	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restrictions of Chemicals (REACH) Awareness Raising Campaign tracking research
I ICM	Climate Change Tracking Wave 6. Omnibus survey covering public knowledge and attitudes to climate change
ICM	Climate Change Tracking Wave 5. Omnibus survey covering public knowledge and attitudes to climate change
IFF Research	Illegal Foods Campaign Tracking 2006-07
Ipsos MORI	Public Understanding of Sustainable Finance and Investment
Ipsos MORI	Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) Research
Ipsos MORI	Attitudes to use of organic waste on agricultural land
Jigsaw Research	Defra: Engaging The Business Community in Environmental Issues
Kate Willis	Fallen Stock Sheep Farmers Research
Marketing Synergie International	Illegal Food Imports Creative Development.
MVA consultancy, commissioned by Consumer Council for Water on behalf of the Water Saving Group	Campaigns to make a difference: Research into identifying water saving messages
Navigator	Waste Infrastructure Research.
Opinion Leader and Enviros Consulting	Personal Carbon Trading: Public Acceptability
Opinion Leader Research	Public Understanding of Sustainable Consumption of Food
Opinion Leader Research	Citizen summit on climate change
Research Works	Personal food imports Filler testing
Scott Wilson	Public Understanding of Sustainable Transport
Social Research and Consultancy	Consumer attitudes to water efficiency of bathroom fittings: analysis of quantitative research
University of Exeter	Contemporary livestock farming and watercourse pollution: a citizen's jury approach
University of Gloucestershire, CCRI and MLURI	Understanding and influencing positive behaviour change in farmers and rural land managers
University of Reading	Survey into farmers attitudes toward a TB cattle vaccine
University of Surrey	Public Understanding of Sustainable Leisure and Tourism

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199046]

Jonathan Shaw: We have not set targets in relation to the employment of people with disabilities, other than for the senior civil service. Our target for 31 March 2008 was 3 per cent. and we achieved 2.6 per cent.

However in an earlier response to the Baroness Byford on 23 October 2007, *Official Report, House of Lords,* columns WA98-99, we highlighted that our disabled employee representation had increased across the Defra network over the last year.

Our workforce information tells us that about 6 per cent. of our staff have declared that they are disabled. However, disability declaration is voluntary and we believe that the actual number of disabled people in the Defra workforce is in fact higher.

In developing our new disability equality scheme our disabled and deaf staff have told us that they lack confidence in the fairness of recruitment processes for disabled and deaf people. To address the concerns raised we intend to review our recruitment and selection policies and processes and improve the monitoring of the whole process to identify and eliminate barriers that disabled and deaf people may experience in securing work with Defra.

Our diversity team supports the business to ensure that the Defra workforce is representative of the wider community. We have set up a Disability Equality Scrutiny and Advisory Group made up of independent disabled experts to monitor and advise on our progress against our action plans.

Dogger Bank: Environment Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to protect the Dogger Bank as an offshore special area of conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. [203992]

Jonathan Shaw: Dogger Bank has been identified as a draft Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive Annex III Stage 1 selection criteria. Draft SACs (dSACs) are areas that have been formally advised to the UK Government as suitable for selection as SACs, but have not been formally approved by Government as sites for public consultation. Further information in support of the recommendation is currently being gathered.

Elephants: Conservation

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what initiatives the Government *(a)* funds directly and *(b)* otherwise supports for the protection and conservation of elephants; and if he will make a statement. [204260]

Joan Ruddock: Elephants are at risk from a number of factors including habitat destruction, poaching for ivory and human-elephant conflict. The UK supports several measures to tackle these threats internationally.

Through its membership of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) the UK works to protect endangered species of plants and animals at threat from trade by controlling and monitoring international trade in them. Since 2005 the UK has made payments to support the work of the Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and has been funding the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) since 2003-04. These programmes will enable the international community to monitor whether the sale of legally stockpiled ivory has an effect on the amount of poaching and illegal global trade. Since 2003-04, the UK has also supported the work of the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) and in May 2007 allocated £10,000 to support elephant dialogue meetings.

In addition, DEFRA's Darwin Initiative contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of the world's biodiversity. Over the last five years to 2008 funding for the programme has increased from 3 million to 7 million per annum, we will be announcing a new Round soon. To date the Darwin Initiative has funded 464 projects in over 130 countries. A number of these have specifically focused on the protection and conservation of elephants, including building capacities for mitigating human-elephant conflict in Assam and Kenya.

Environment Protection: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the use of land owned by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for improvements to the A130 Canvey Way. [204596]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has received no such representations.

Fisheries: Environment Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what capacity his Department has to assess what fishing takes place in the proposed offshore special areas of conservation sites at *(a)* Braemar Pockmarks, *(b)* Scanner Pockmark, *(c)* North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, *(d)* Haig Frais, *(e)* Stanton Banks, *(f)* Darwin Mounds and *(g)* Wyville Thomson Ridge. [203965]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Fisheries Agency (MFA) assesses fishing that takes place in the proposed offshore special areas of conservation and has access to sightings data collected from both aerial and surface surveillance units (namely fishery protection aircraft and the Royal Navy vessels within the Fishery Protection Squadron). The MFA also has access to satellite monitoring data but this is only in relation to vessels over 15 m in length, transmitting their positions every two hours.

The MFA can also access fisheries statistics in relation to species caught and landed from a particular area via the Fisheries Statistical Unit to the level of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) statistical rectangles.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* actual and *(b)* potential environmental damage or risk of environmental damage from fishing and related activities within the proposed offshore special areas of conservation sites at (i) Braemar Pockmarks, (ii) Scanner Pockmark, (iii) North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, (iv) Haig Frais, (v) Stanton Banks, (vi) Darwin Mounds and (vii) Wyville Thomson Ridge. [203966]

Jonathan Shaw: The Joint Nature Conservation Council made the following assessments of the impacts of fishing on the condition of the proposed offshore special areas of conservation (SAC) sites as part of the Offshore Marine Natura consultation process, which took place in 2007.

Braemar Pockmarks

The biological and physical structure of the interest feature at the Braemar pockmarks site are known to have been partially impacted by bottom trawling. This has dispersed, fragmented and possibly buried some of the carbonate formations, and may also have modified the structure of the encircling pockmarks (John Hartley, pers. comm., 2005). However, much of the interest feature is still intact.

The prospects of this feature in terms of maintaining its structure in the future (taking into account unfavourable influences and reasonable conservation effort) are good. A mechanism is available through the European Commission's common fisheries policy regulations to modify fishing activity in the area if this is deemed to be necessary.

Scanner Pockmark

The biological and physical structure of the habitat at the Scanner pockmark site is intact on the available evidence but may have been impacted by bottom trawling for Norway lobster (Nephrops norvegicus) (the main commercial demersal stock in the Witch Ground). Bottom trawling could have modified the structure of the pockmark, causing burial of some of the submarine structures, as well as breaking and displacement of carbonate pieces. Some fishing nets were observed caught on the structures. However, the feature appears to be largely undamaged.

The prospects of this feature to maintain its structure in the future, taking into account unfavourable influences and reasonable conservation effort, are good. A mechanism is available through the European Commission's common fisheries policy regulations to modify fishing activity in the area if this is deemed to be necessary.

North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef

The biological and physical structure of the North Norfolk Sandbanks have been impacted locally by some gas extraction infrastructure and aggregate extraction. It is also possible that the fauna of the banks have been impacted by bottom trawling, which may have reduced the number of long-lived or fragile organisms associated with the interest feature. The physical structure of the banks is intact, if not pristine, and the biology is representative of the habitat.

The prospects of this feature to maintain its structure in the future, taking into account unfavourable influences and reasonable conservation effort, are good. Regulations are in place to control oil and gas activity in and around SACs in the UK continental shelf designated area and developments are subject to appropriate assessment if they are likely to affect the features of a SAC. A mechanism is available through the European Commission's common fisheries policy regulations to modify fishing activity in the area if this is deemed to be necessary. The aggregates industries' operations are currently subject to environmental assessment, and would be subject to appropriate assessment if likely to affect SAC interest features.

Haig Fras

Available evidence indicates that the biological and physical structure of the reef interest feature at Haig Fras are intact (Rees, 2000).

The prospects of this feature to maintain its structure in the future (taking into account unfavourable influences and reasonable conservation effort) are good, since the basic physical structure is resilient to mechanical impacts and the reef is isolated from terrestrial sources of pollution. Due to the shape of the feature, it is likely to be avoided by bottom trawlers which could damage the reef fauna. However, a mechanism is available through the European Commission's common fisheries policy regulations to modify fishing activity in the area if this is deemed to be necessary.

Stanton Banks

The biological and physical structure of the reef habitat at Stanton Banks is intact to the best of our knowledge.

The prospects of this feature in terms of maintaining its structure in the future (taking into account unfavourable influences and reasonable conservation effort) are excellent. A mechanism is available through the European Commission's common fisheries policy regulations to modify fishing activity in the area if this is deemed to be necessary.

Darwin Mounds

The biological and physical structure of the biogenic reef in this area is mainly intact although some areas have been damaged by bottom trawling. Evidence of damage was provided from sidescan sonar images in 1999 (Bett, 1999). New damage (smashed coral strewn on the sea bed) was also visible over about a half of the Darwin Mounds East during summer 2000 (Bett, 2001). A trawler was operating nearby during the surveys. Reef damage means a loss of not only the habitat itself, but the species assemblages it supports.

The prospects of this feature to maintain its structure in the future, taking into account unfavourable influences and reasonable conservation effort, are moderate. The European Commission, at the request of the UK, has adopted common fisheries policy measures which prohibit the use of bottom trawling gear within the SAC boundary. However, it is possible that some further bottom trawling may have occurred in the months before these common fisheries policy measures were in place. Equally, it is possible that illegal fishing activities take place on this site. Therefore, this feature could be degraded by fisheries in spite of reasonable conservation effort.

Wyville Thomson Ridge

The biological and physical structure of habitats on Wyville Thomson Ridge is intact on the basis of available evidence, although some scarring from bottom trawling has been observed.

The prospects of this feature to maintain its structure in the future, taking into account unfavourable influences and reasonable conservation effort, are good. A mechanism is available through the European Commission's common fisheries policy regulations to modify fishing activity in the area, if this is deemed to be necessary.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what ongoing monitoring of potential damage from fishing and related activities he plans to undertake in the proposed offshore special areas of conservation sites at *(a)* Braemar Pockmarks, *(b)* Scanner Pockmark, *(c)* North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, *(d)* Haig Frais, *(e)* Stanton Banks, *(f)* Darwin Mounds and *(g)* Wyville Thomson Ridge. [203968]

Jonathan Shaw: Monitoring of fishing activities in the proposed Special Areas of Conservation (pSACs) sites is undertaken on the basis of a risk-based programme of monitoring and enforcement, including the use of inspections on land and at sea. This will often be in conjunction with enforcement in respect of fishing activity, though not exclusively, because other marine activities are also required to comply with the Offshore Marine Conservation Regulations 2007.

The enforcement programme will seek to identify those areas where there is the highest probability of offences occurring and to prioritise resources to those areas to ensure compliance. Intelligence information will also be used when it becomes available from any reliable source.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to prevent fishing activity if the Joint Nature Conservation Committee advises that fishing damages or has the potential to damage the proposed offshore special areas of conservation sites at *(a)* Braemar Pockmarks, *(b)* Scanner Pockmark, *(c)* North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, *(d)* Haig Frais, *(e)* Stanton Banks, *(f)* Darwin Mounds and *(g)* Wyville Thomson Ridge; and how he plans to prevent environmental damage from fishing and related activities at each site. [203969]

Jonathan Shaw: The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 ensure that certain activities that have an effect on important species and habitats in the offshore marine environment can be controlled. The regulations apply in the "offshore area" beyond 12 nautical miles from the UK coast. They protect marine habitats, species and wild birds, through a number of offences.

The regulations take account of the fact that the regulation of commercial fishing activities is conducted in the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) (as the European Community has exclusive competence). Where measures are necessary to control commercial fishing activities to meet the conservation objectives of an offshore Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) the UK will work with the European Commission to deliver proportionate and effective measures through CFP regulation.

Fisheries: Fuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of the fishing industry to discuss the effects of fuel prices on competitiveness in the industry. [204626]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* I am always pleased to meet representatives of the fishing industry and do so on a regular basis. I have recently agreed to meet with representatives of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations to discuss fuel prices.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research on the effects of fuel prices on competitiveness in the fishing industries. [204627]

Jonathan Shaw: *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* The price of fuel is one of the factors taken into account in formulating policy intended to maximise the competitiveness of the UK fishing industry. I have no plans to commission research into the effects of fuel prices in isolation.

Fisheries: Special Areas of Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records his Department holds of fishing in marine waters at the proposed offshore special areas of conservation sites at *(a)* Braemar Pockmarks, *(b)* Scanner Pockmark, *(c)* North Norfolk sandbanks and Saturn reef, *(d)* Haig Frais, *(e)* Stanton Banks, *(f)* Darwin Mounds and *(g)* Wyville Thomson Ridge. [204015]

Jonathan Shaw: The Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) is required to prepare Conservation Objectives and Advice on Operations as after sites are submitted to the European Commission. Subsequently, for each of the offshore Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) subject to consultation in 2007-2008, it has prepared draft documents which include information on the impact of fishing. This information has been compiled making use of existing knowledge and in consultation with various Government Departments and agencies who hold such information, including the Marine Fisheries Agency and the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to subsidise fuel for British fishing fleets; and if he will make a statement. [204093]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* It is not Government policy to subsidise fuel costs, including for commercial fishing vessels. Such subsidies can lead to over capacity, distort business decisions, act against the long term interests of the industry, can be discriminatory, and are not sustainable.

The emphasis of any aid to the fishing industry should be on building a sustainable future and that is where we are directing our efforts.

Floods: Compensation

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* homeowners, *(b)* tenants, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* farmers are eligible to apply for compensation for flood damage in Selsey. [204979]

Mr. Woolas: There is no general compensation scheme for those who are uninsured, not least because it would be unfair to those who paid for cover. Also, flood defences are provided under permissive powers; there is no legal obligation on the Government to protect property to any given standard, or at all. This has been the policy of successive Governments.

While compensation is not payable for those affected by flooding, grants and loans are available from the Department for Work and Pensions to help those in most need following flooding.

Floods: Research

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* research studies and *(b)* reviews have been commissioned by his Department into the flooding in summer 2007; who commissioned them; who is carrying them out; and how much they will cost. [204207]

Mr. Woolas: A review of the flooding, its causes and subsequent management including recovery issues, was commissioned by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This is being led by the independent Chair Sir Michael Pitt, and being carried out by the Cabinet Office with support from DEFRA and CLG. Until the Review has been concluded, we will not have final costings.

Floods: Thames Gateway

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote the development of an integrated approach by local authorities, developers, highways authorities and water companies to the management of storm water within the Thames Gateway growth area; and if he will make a statement. [198990]

Mr. Woolas: Planning Policy Statement 25 on Development and Flood Risk promotes the strategic consideration of flood risk at all levels of the planning process. This is done through a constructive partnership approach between local planning authorities, the Environment Agency and other stakeholders, in the early consideration of, and planning for, new development in flood risk areas.

In the Thames Gateway, strategic flood risk assessments, which are co-ordinated by the Environment Agency, are providing all stakeholders with a common understanding of risk from all forms of flooding.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on genetically modified crops; and what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for International Development on genetically modified crops and developing countries. [204302]

Mr. Woolas: Defra has received a range of representations on GM crops, and we keep in close touch with the Department for International Development on any cross-cutting issues to do with the use of GM crops in developing countries.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Energy Saving Trust on the launch of the Green Homes Service. [204297]

Mr. Woolas: We have had a variety of discussions with the Energy Saving Trust on the issue of the Green Homes Service, at both ministerial and official level.

Landfill Tax: Fly-tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on fly-tipping of the landfill tax escalator. [204486]

Joan Ruddock: No formal assessment has been made.

However, the Government are monitoring levels of fly-tipping and ways in which the effects can be mitigated. In April 2004, the Flycapture database was set up to help local authorities and the Environment Agency improve information on the scale of fly-tipping and to help focus resources and identify trends in this growing environmental crime. Flycapture is enabling central and local government to demonstrate the true nature, extent and scale of fly-tipping, both nationally and locally. The data are being used to develop more effective, evidence-based policies and strategies.

DEFRA also funded a research report by the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science into the causes and incentives of fly-tipping. The report concludes that there is not one cause of fly-tipping but a number of separate ones.

Assessing the specific effect of the landfill tax on fly-tipping would be extremely difficult, not least because there are a number of different causes of fly-tipping, some of which may need to coincide before a person decides to act illegally. Fly-tipping levels also reflect the level of enforcement and other prevention activity undertaken by the Environment Agency and local authorities, which can offset any increase in illegal activity.

Although the research recognises that one of these causes may be the cost of legitimate waste disposal, the landfill tax is an important instrument in reducing our reliance on landfill and moving to more sustainable waste management options. The actual increases,

together with the knowledge of the future rate of tax, is sending a strong signal. This will change behaviour, while allowing business time to adjust and make the necessary investment in alternative waste treatment routes.

Leisure: Staffordshire

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the levels of amenity available to the residents of the parishes of Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston in Staffordshire. [203694]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has no responsibility for the provision of local amenities and therefore has made no such assessment.

Nature Reserves: West Sussex

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the plans of Natural England and the Environment Agency to flood areas of Medmerry; and if he will make a statement. [204980]

Mr. Woolas: Natural England has no powers to decide flood defence policy. The Environment Agency has not published any plans to flood areas of land behind the Medmerry coastline. The draft Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy will make an assessment of the impacts of all options in accordance with DEFRA guidance. The options will include changes to land use as a result of managed realignment of the coastline. The draft strategy is due to be issued for public consultation at the end of May.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the financial value of the palaeontological remains in the on-shore cliffs at the Medmerry frontage. [204981]

Joan Ruddock: There have been a number of attempts to put a financial value on wildlife assets, all of which have encountered problems. To date, as far as we are aware, no one has attempted to do this for palaeontological assets generally, let alone for those present at the Medmerry frontage.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish a response to the consultation on nitrate vulnerable zones; what the next steps will be; and when he expects to announce the Government's policy. [204213]

Mr. Woolas: We intend to announce and publish our response to the nitrate vulnerable zones consultation before Parliament breaks for summer recess. This will include a summary of what the Department plans to do as a result of the consultation responses.

Nitrogen Oxides

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the UK meets its targets for the reduction of nitrogen oxides by 2010 under the EU national emissions ceiling directive and the UN Gothenburg protocol. [208915]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK reported in December 2007 for the first time that the 2010 national emission ceiling for nitrogen oxides (NOx) was likely to be exceeded by some 10 per cent. Though there remain considerable uncertainties with the projections, the increase is a consequence of changes in projections of emissions from energy production, and an improved methodology for predicting emissions from non-road transport mobile sources and machinery. We have commissioned a study to examine options for improving the prospects of achieving compliance, which will be finalised early in May 2008.

Pollution Control

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what factors were taken into account in setting the fee levels for pollution prevention and control permits; what the cost of administering the permit scheme is; and if he will make a statement; [204214]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of a Pollution Prevention and Control permit in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [204227]

Joan Ruddock: There are three categories of pollution prevention and control permits: IPPC permits issued by the Environment Agency, IPPC permits issued by local authorities, and air pollution control permits issued by local authorities.

DEFRA (for the latter two categories) and the Environment Agency consult annually on the level of fees and charges for the coming financial year. Those consultations cover the factors taken into account and regulatory costs.

Papers for this year's DEFRA consultation, which closed on 4 January, are available on the DEFRA website. The Environment Agency consultation closed on 7 December, and the papers are available on the Environment Agency website.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements he has agreed with regional development agencies and Natural England to account for exchange rate variations. [203931]

Jonathan Shaw: Budgets for Regional Development Agencies and Natural England are set in sterling. Exchange rate variations have no immediate impact on these bodies. However, DEFRA is working closely with the delivery bodies and the paying agency, the Rural Payments Agency, to manage and account for the total resources for the Rural Development for England Programme over the seven-year programming period.

Rural Areas: Finance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much EU funding was provided for the individual axes of the European Rural Development Programme for England, expressed in euro; what the sterling equivalent was at the time the sum was settled; and what it is at the most recent exchange rate. [203928]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) contribution to the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013 is set in euros. Details are set out in the financial tables of the programme document, which was approved by the European Commission in December 2007. The sums are:

	€
Total EAFRD	3,217,464,635
of which:	
Axis 1	344,877,726
Axis 2	2,441,251,505
Axis 3	269,018,937
Axis 4	160,894,083
Technical assistance	1,422,384

At the time of programme approval, the exchange rate was 0.71475. Sterling equivalents as at December were therefore:

	£
Total EAFRD budget	2,299,682,847
of which:	
Axis 1	246,501,355
Axis 2	1,744,884,513
Axis 3	192,281,285
Axis 4	114,999,046
Technical assistance	1,016,649

The current exchange rate is 0.78895, as specified by the European Commission and used to convert EAFRD payments for May 2008.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how often his Department draws down funding for the European Rural Development Programme from the EU; and what exchange rate is used to allocate that funding to the regional development agencies and Natural England. [203929]

Jonathan Shaw: The EU funding is paid in arrears, following receipt of a claim for reimbursement from the Rural Payments Agency. The claim for reimbursement is submitted on a quarterly basis in Euros.

Budgets for the Regional Development Agency and Natural England Rural Development Programme for England are allocated by DEFRA, in sterling. The Regional Development Agencies and Natural England are responsible for committing the expenditure, but payments to beneficiaries and claims for reimbursement from the European Commission are made by the Rural Payments Agency, the Paying Agency for the Programme. Expenditure commitment details are provided by the Regional Development Agencies and Natural England, in Sterling, to the Rural Payments Agency, which makes the payments in sterling. It is the responsibility of the Rural Payments Agency to convert the sterling payments into euro claims for reimbursement from the European Commission. The exchange rate used is set by the European Central Bank rate, on the last but one day in the month before the payments were made.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding he has allocated to the European Rural Development Programme from UK funds as matched funding; and what effect changes in the euro/sterling exchange rate will have on that sum. [203930]

Jonathan Shaw: The total Exchequer budget (matched funding) for the RDPE 2007-2013 is £1,682 million. Fluctuations in exchange rates will not affect this sum. Under Council Regulation 1698/2005, the Rural Development Regulation, any unspent European funds may be rolled forward by up to two calendar years following the year in which they were originally allocated. The effect of exchange rate fluctuations can therefore be managed over the seven-year programming period as a whole.

Sea Mammal Research Unit

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what role the Sea Mammal Research Unit at St Andrews University plays in UK marine policy. [203998]

Jonathan Shaw: The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) is an independent research centre, and is used by Defra as a contractor to provide scientific research and monitoring. The unit is currently responsible for monitoring cetacean by-catch under the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive and Council Regulation 812/2004, and for developing mitigation measures to reduce the by-catch of marine mammals.

SMRU is also a member of the Healthy and Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group, one of the groups falling under the umbrella of the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy. Defra is committed to evidence-based policy development, and therefore scientific evidence and information derived from monitoring initiatives such as this plays an important role.

Sea Mammal Research Unit: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding he provides to the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) at St. Andrews University; what proportion of the work carried out by the SMRU relates to whaling; and if he will make a statement. [203999]

Jonathan Shaw: Defra has committed £35,555 for the period 2008-09 for the research project entitled "Conservation of whales and the management of whaling". The project is being taken forward by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU).

This project forms the basis for UK representation on the International Whaling Commission (IWC) Scientific Committee. Its overall aim is to provide independent scientific advice to Defra and the IWC, through its

Scientific Committee, on matters related to the conservation of large and small cetacean populations and the management of whaling and other human-induced mortality, thus informing policy. The results are intended for Defra, the IWC and the wider scientific community.

The work which comprises this project will enable the scientific interests of the IWC to be pursued by: assisting the IWC Scientific Committee to provide the best possible advice to the Commission; providing scientific advice to Defra on IWC-related matters; summarising UK cetacean research in the annual National Progress Report to the IWC; and ensuring a high standard of publications in the IWC Journal of Cetacean Research and Management.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of UK waters that would need to be turned into no-take marine reserves to *(a)* preserve biodiversity within the UK's marine environment and *(b)* help fish stocks recover from over-fishing. [203993]

Jonathan Shaw: Our objective is to designate an ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas by 2012. Various figures have been suggested for the proportion of our seas that might need to be protected to achieve that aim. These figures have been based on a range of assumptions and criteria. They have also been produced without the benefit of the detailed work which we have asked the statutory nature conservation agencies to undertake with stakeholders. At this stage, and without the detailed work having been carried out, we think it would be wrong to set a fixed target for the proportion of the sea which needs to be protected in order to achieve our conservation objectives.

Seas and Oceans: EU Law

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how he plans to comply with the UK's mandatory obligations in relation to the marine environment under the EU Habitats Directive. [203967]

Jonathan Shaw: The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 ("The Habitats Regulations") transpose council directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC habitats directive) into national law. The Habitats Regulations apply as far as the limit of territorial waters (12 nautical miles from baseline) and allow the UK to meet its mandatory obligations under the habitats directive in this area.

DEFRA introduced the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations in 2007 to comply with the UK's mandatory obligations under both the EU habitats and wild birds directives beyond UK territorial waters.

Tobacco: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in 2007 by the EU to subsidise tobacco production in member states. [203894]

Jonathan Shaw: The EU expenditure for tobacco premiums in 2007 was €335.5 million.

UK Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the level of funds likely to be generated by the auctioning of allowances under the UK Emissions Trading Scheme in each year from 2008 to 2012; and how the funds will be disbursed. [199307]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The UK is a participant in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, where it will auction 7 per cent. of its total allowances in Phase II (2008-12), amounting to approximately 85 million allowances. Revenues from auctions will depend on market conditions at the time of auction. The Government do not make price predictions and has not therefore made an estimate of likely auction revenues. Revenues from auctions will go to the Consolidated Fund.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations have been made to his Department on *(a)* charges for the collection of household waste and *(b)* regulations regarding powers to fine in relation to household waste offences, by police forces, police authorities or those representing them. [204503]

Joan Ruddock: No such representations have been received.

Waste Management

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance has been issued to waste collection authorities by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme on (a) closed lid and (b) no-side waste collections. [204500]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 869W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the introduction and commencement of joint waste authorities. [204502]

Joan Ruddock: Powers to create joint waste authorities (JWA) commenced on 27 March 2008 under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Commencement No. 5 and Transitional, Saving and Transitory Provision) Order 2008 (S.I. No. 2008/917).

Secondary legislation is required to establish the application details for becoming a JWA. This is currently subject to a consultation, available on DEFRA's website, with a closing date of 9 June. After the consultation has been completed, we expect that the regulations will be laid in Parliament and finalised during autumn/winter 2008.

Waste Management: Recycling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of likely trends in the numbers of waste collection authorities operating commingled collections. [205014]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA has made no assessment of the future use of different recycling collection services. Decisions on local waste collection and recycling services are rightly for individual local authorities to make in close consultation with their residents. Government strongly encourages local authorities to use good practice and to consider the overall carbon impact of their collection services. The Waste and Resources Action Programme provides local authorities with advice on good practice.

Whales: International Cooperation

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Prime Minister discussed possible legal action by Australia against Japan on whaling at his recent meeting with the Australian Prime Minister; and if he will make a statement. [201902]

Jonathan Shaw: Whaling was not discussed at this meeting. However, I recently spoke to the hon. Peter Garrett MP, Australian Minister for the Environment about whether legal action might reasonably be pursued and if so, how. I understand Australia is currently considering what, if any, legal avenues are available to challenge Japan's whaling operations. I assured Mr. Garrett that we would be prepared to examine carefully any suggestions that the Australian government might feel able to make in the light of those considerations.

We also discussed the meeting I held with the Japanese deputy ambassador on 8 January to express the UK's outrage over Japan's 'scientific' whaling activities. I assured Mr. Garrett that I had left Japan in no doubt as to the strength of feeling in the UK on the issue and that the UK government will continue to make our opposition to whaling known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity.

We also discussed the recent seminar on commercial whaling I attended in Copenhagen on 10 March. The event was co-hosted by the British embassy and the Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals. The aim was to raise awareness among the Danish public of the cruel and unsustainable nature of whaling and to attempt to persuade Denmark to take a more pro-conservationist approach at this year's International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting.

I confirmed the UK will once again play an important role in the conservation and protection of cetaceans at the next annual meeting of the IWC to be held in Santiago, Chile in June 2008. We agreed our countries would continue to be at the forefront of the fight to ensure that countries seeking to remove protection for cetacean species around the world do not succeed.

White Fish

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many vessels from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other EU countries are involved in the pair trawling fishery for bass in the Western Channel. [203994]

Jonathan Shaw: Current information indicates that there is only one UK bass pair-trawler operating in the Western Channel at present. We do not hold information on pair-trawlers from other member states.

PRIME MINISTER

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister on what occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* his special advisers have attended (i) conferences and (ii) meetings where (A) abortion and (B) euthanasia were discussed in each of the last six months; on what dates such conferences and meetings took place; where each took place; and if he will make a statement. [205011]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

Constitutions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on referendums on the future of the constitution of the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [205193]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government Equalities Office plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195945]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office is a small department based in Eland House in London, the Communities and Local Government headquarters building. Sustainable operations policy relates mainly to, assessing, reporting and improving performance in managing land and buildings sustainably, and GEO, as a tenant of CLG, is party to CLG's sustainable operations policy and practices and has no plans to develop its own policy.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will meet the hon. Member for Kettering and local authority representatives to discuss the provision of a university in Kettering. [197390]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* I am delighted by the interest that our new university challenge has generated. This policy offers towns and cities the opportunity to unlock the potential in their area by working with those involved in regeneration and economic planning to provide locally-based HE provision. The Secretary of State has agreed to meet a delegation from Kettering to discuss these issues.

Teachers: Training

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of those universities which offer a degree in teaching provide special educational needs teacher training at *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate level. [205032]

Bill Rammell: All universities which offer initial teacher training courses provide special educational needs teacher training at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

OLYMPICS

Apprentices: Olympic Games Sites

6. **John Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what additional training opportunities for apprentices will be available on London Olympic Games sites during the construction phase. [204435]

Tessa Jowell: The Games give us a tremendous opportunity to create a lasting skills legacy. The Olympic Delivery Authority, together with its partners, aim to get at least 2,000 people (approximately 4 per cent. of the workforce) into trainee apprenticeships and work placements up to 2012 on the Olympic Park and other venues. This will benefit local people, including previously workless people.

Contracts: Companies Outside London

7. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what percentage of contracts for the 2012 London Olympic Games have been awarded to companies based outside London. [204436]

Tessa Jowell: 46 per cent. of the Olympic Delivery Authority's contracts to date have been awarded to businesses based outside of London. This includes 2 per cent. of the total which was awarded to overseas businesses.

Nottingham

8. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the effects of the 2012 London Olympic Games on Nottingham. [204437]

Tessa Jowell: Nottingham stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 Games, in the same way as other towns, cities and regions across the UK. Over the next four years I want to see all parts of the UK taking advantage of the sporting, cultural, economic and other opportunities that will be available.

I understand that the ODA has already awarded 27 contracts to companies registered in the East Midlands and 26 facilities from the region are included in the official pre-Games Training Camp Guide.

2012 Olympic Games: Housing

Lyn Brown: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps are being taken to ensure the housing built for the 2012 Olympic Games will be made available to local people for affordable rent or purchase after the Games have taken place. [204434]

Tessa Jowell: At least 30 per cent. of the homes created from construction of the Olympic Village will be affordable. We want the legacy housing to be mixed tenure, available to a wide range of people, including those from existing local communities, to create new, diverse, sustainable neighbourhoods. The allocation of affordable homes after the Games will be agreed between the relevant London boroughs and the Housing Corporation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Arrests

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* proceeded against for and *(c)* convicted of the offence of being drunk and disorderly in 2006. [193586]

Jacqui Smith: The Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform—within the Ministry of Justice, shows that the number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of drunk and disorderly under the Criminal Justice Act 1967 S.91(1) in England and Wales for the year 2006 is 16,143. The number of people found guilty at all courts for the same offence is 13,939.

In addition, under the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme, fixed penalty notices of £80 may be issued by the police for the offence of 'drunk and disorderly'. The number of PNDs issued for the offence in England and Wales was 43,556 in 2006.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have received *(a)* a fine, *(b)* an antisocial behaviour order, *(c)* a community sentence and *(d)* another penalty after

being convicted for purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person aged under 18 years in each year since 1997. [198230]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* The number of persons fined, issued with a community sentence and given another penalty after being convicted of purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person aged under 18 years in each year since 1997 can be viewed in the following table.

The Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO) collection held by my Department does not contain information on offences committed which resulted in an ASBO being issued. It is therefore not possible from this collection to provide information on the number of persons issued with an ASBO as a result of purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person aged under 18 years.

Number of persons fined, issued with a community sentence and given another penalty after conviction at all courts for certain alcohol related offences[1], England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[2, 3]

	Purchase alcohol for a person aged under 18[1]:			
	Fine	*Community sentence*	*Conditional discharge*	*Otherwise dealt with[4]*
1997	2	—	—	—
1998	1	—	—	—
1999	1	—	1	—
2000[5]	1	—	1	—
2001	6	—	4	—
2002	12	—	3	1
2003	11	—	7	—
2004	22	—	8	—
2005	18	—	6	—
2006	14	2	10	—

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes: Buying or attempting to buy intoxicating liquor for consumption by a person under 18. Purchasing intoxicating liquor for consumption by person under 18 in bar. Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(3). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(3). Person who buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of an individual under 18. Licensing Act 2003 S149(3,4,7b).

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Otherwise dealt with includes Sentences of Compensation, Hospital or Guardianship Orders under the Mental Health Act 1983, police cells, recognizance and other disposals not separately shown elsewhere. Also includes sentences passed in pilot studies (except for intermittent custody) and cases where the result of the court proceeding was incorrectly recorded.

[5] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Foreign Workers

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of A8 migrants registered on the Worker Registration Scheme who have returned to their home country. [202899]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The purpose of the Worker Registration Scheme is to measure the number of A8 migrants entering the UK labour market and as such A8 migrants are not required to notify the Scheme when they return to their home countries.

However, estimates of net migration by A8 migrants are produced and published by the Office for National Statistics on their website.

Immigration

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff in her Department work on assessing the effects of migration on public services. [202870]

Jacqui Smith: Home Office and UK Border Agency officials across various teams spend part of their time working on the impacts of migration, including on public services. UKBA policies look to balance economic need with the impacts of migration on communities, and public services in particular. We have established the Migration Advisory Committee to look at the economic aspects, and the Migration Impacts Forum to look at the social aspects of this. Communities and Local Government lead on the impacts of migration across Government.

Offensive Weapons: Crime Prevention

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff in her Department work on the formulation of policies to tackle *(a)* knife and *(b)* gun crime. [202869]

Jacqui Smith: The work on policy development on gun and knife crime is interconnected and it is not possible easily to disaggregate these functions. The Public Space Violence Team in the Violent Crime Unit develops policy on gun and knife crime and totals 11 members of staff. In addition, the Children and Young People Team has the remit for cross-cutting policy development relating to young people.

Home Office staff in Government Offices for the Regions also work on local policies relating to gun and knife crime in their local areas.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the National Statistician and the Statistics Authority will next review the NHS quarterly waiting time statistics. [202769]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Michael Scholar, dated 9 May 2008:

As chair of the UK Statistics Authority, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking when the National Statistician and the Statistics Authority will next review the NHS quarterly waiting time statistics. (202769)

The UK Statistics Authority took responsibility for oversight of the UK official statistics system on 1st April 2008. The Authority has just appointed a Head of Assessment, a statutory post, whose holder will be responsible for the assessment and designation of all National Statistics against a Code of Practice for Statistics. The UK Statistics Authority will consider when and how these statistics should be assessed on the advice of the Head of Assessment, once that advice is available.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on non-domestic rates, if he will provide the information broken down by turnover band of *(a)* less than £50,000, *(b)* £50,000 to £99,999, *(c)* £100,000 to £499,999, *(d)* £500,000 to £1,999,999, *(e)* £2,000,000 to £9,999,999, *(f)* £10,000,000 to £49,999,999, *(g)* £50,000,000 to £999,999,999 and *(h)* £1,000,000,000 or more. [203914]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for expenditure on national non-domestic rates by businesses in England, by turnover band, as percentages of turnover, purchases and gross value added (GVA). (203914)

Our Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), which covers most of the economy but excludes some sectors, such as agriculture, finance, local and central government, collects data on national non-domestic rates. The latest figures published for England alone relate to 2005. 2006 estimates will be available in June 2008.

The ABI is normally stratified using employment sizebands but the turnover sizebands used in the analysis are as requested.

The table below shows the data as per your request:

National non-domestic business rates in England as a percentage of:

	Total turnover			*Total purchases of goods and services*			*Gross value added (GVA)*		
Turnover sizeband	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*
<£50,000	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.3	7.2	6.2	5.7
£50,000 to £99,999	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.9	2.00	2.2	1.6	1.9	2.1
£100,000 to £499,999	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.5	2.8
£500,000 to £1,999,999	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.7	2.8	3.0
£2,000,000 to £9,999,999	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.4	2.5	2.6
£10,000,000 to £49,999,999	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.3	2.3	2.4
£50,000,000 to £999,999,999	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.7	1.6	1.9
£1,000,000,000 or more	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.1	0.9	0.7

Further details of the coverage of the annual business inquiry are given at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/abi

The annual business inquiry is a sample survey so the figures are subject to sampling error. This is likely to be greater for the figures relating to small businesses than for businesses in the larger turnover bands.

Non-Profit Making Associations: Finance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much social enterprise funding is being provided to voluntary sector bodies in 2008-09. [203688]

Phil Hope: Government social enterprise policy is set out in the social enterprise action plan, which was launched in November 2006. Social enterprises come from a variety of backgrounds and a proportion of them will start as voluntary sector organisation looking to become more enterprising and diversify their income stream.

A number of funds focus specifically on supporting social enterprise and enterprising third sector organisations. The Cabinet Office has two such programmes:

Futurebuilders offers support and investment to third sector organisations to deliver public services. Cabinet Office committed a further £65 million to this fund over the 2008-11 CSR period, brining the total fund up to £215 million.

A Risk Capital Fund which will, over the life of the fund, provide up to £10 million government money for co-investment in social enterprise, matched by up to £10 million from the private sector.

In addition the Department of Health is investing £100 million over the next four years to create and support a vibrant social enterprise sector in health and social care.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Music: Internet

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government is taking to protect the music industry from illegal downloading. [204464]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government take the illicit use of peer-to-peer technology to download music and other copyright material very seriously. We accept it is difficult for the music industry to develop exciting and viable new business models in the face of such unlawful activity. That is why we are actively encouraging rights holders and internet service providers to agree a way forward—it is in both their longer term interests, and a voluntary arrangement that was effective and fair would be the best solution. However, the Government

have also made it clear that in the absence of such an industry solution we will consult on regulatory options with a view to introducing legislation.

Working Hours: Tribunals

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many claims about *(a)* working hours and *(b)* flexible working by employees in the (i) public sector and (ii) private sector were accepted for hearings by employment tribunals in each year since 1997; and in how many such cases the tribunals found in favour of the claimant. [201908]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is in the following tables:

Table 1: Working hours and flexible working hours data

	Jurisdiction accepted[1]	Disposals[2, 3]	Cases disposed of at hearing	Number of successful at hearing
1997-98	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
1998-99	1,326	—	—	—
1999-2000	5,595	1,376	209	119
2000-01	6,389	3,475	906	583
2001-02	4,980	4,367	986	521
2002-03	6,436	3,497	849	426
2003-04	[5]16,869	4,099	678	459
2004-05	3,223	12,255	9,471	9,249
2005-06	35,474	9,388	1,986	1,374
2006-07	21,127	33,607	4,057	2,983

[1] Table 1 shows the number of claims under the Working Time Directive and includes cases where working time directive is not the main jurisdiction. A claim may be bought under more than one jurisdiction or subsequently amended or clarified in the course of proceedings. Table 1 does not include claims brought under Flexible Working Hours (these are detailed in Table 2).
[2] This includes cases where there was an ACAS conciliated settlement, withdrawn cases, default judgments and cases disposed of otherwise.
[3] The disposal figures for 1999-2000 include cases where working time directive was the main jurisdiction cited.
[4] Data not held.
[5] The increase in 2003-04 is due to a large multiple case heard at Watford.
Notes:
1. Taken from Annual Reports 1999-2000 to 2006-07.
2. The information above includes both public and private sector as the information is not available separately.

Table 2: Flexible Working Hours

	Receipts[1, 2]
2004-05	271
2005-06	247
2006-07	233
2007-08	271

[1] Receipts are all applications registered by the employment tribunals where Flexible Working Hours was one of the jurisdictions or main jurisdiction cited.
[2] In the annual report Flexible Working cases are reported on in the 'Other' category and cannot be separated out, therefore only the receipts can be provided, the receipt figures come from the management board statistics produced for ETS and a breakdown of jurisdictional receipts incl. flexible working hours cases were only reported on from September 2004. In the annual reports flexible working hours cases would be included in the 'Others' description so a breakdown cannot be provided from the published statistics.
Notes:
1. Figures taken from Management Statistics produced for ETS.
2. Table 2 shows the number of claims brought under Flexible Working Hours.
3. Figures are not available for the financial years 1997-08 to 2003-04

HEALTH

Alzheimer's Disease

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he discussed policy to tackle Alzheimer's disease and the French Plan on Alzheimer at his recent meeting with the French Minister of Health; and if he will make a statement. [204862]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State had discussions with the French Minister of Health on 14 April 2008 on a range of issues, including on measures to tackle dementia, including Alzheimer's disease.

Dementia is now a priority for the Government, and in August 2007 we announced the development of a new National Dementia Strategy and Implementation Plan. The strategy will focus on three key themes: improving awareness; early diagnosis and intervention; and improving the quality of care. Work on the strategy is already under way and draft recommendations are due to go out for public consultation in June 2008.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average residential care home fee in each local authority area for *(a)* local authority-funded residents and *(b)* privately-funded residents was in each year since 1996. [204613]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that older people in care homes receive a minimum standard of care; and if he will make a statement. [204592]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government established the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 as a single inspectorate to bring together all strands of inspection, monitoring and the regulation of social care services, including care and nursing homes for older people.

We introduced national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes, domiciliary care and adult placements. The NMS are intended to ensure vulnerable and older people can live in a safe environment, where their rights and dignity are respected and staff are properly trained. All care homes in England are regulated—registered and inspected—by CSCI in accordance with statutory regulations and the NMS. CSCI has a wide range of enforcement powers and will take action to protect the welfare of residents, with the aim of raising the quality of care and level of protection for vulnerable people and ensuring that service users and their families can be confident that their welfare and interests are safeguarded.

We introduced the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Scheme in July 2004. This scheme, which operates as a work force ban, prevents dangerous or unscrupulous people from gaining access to older and vulnerable people in care homes or being cared for in their own homes.

On the recommendation of the Bichard inquiry, we are introducing a new centralised vetting and barring scheme for people working with children and vulnerable people. This scheme, as set out in the Safeguarding

Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, will extend the coverage of the existing barring scheme and draw on wider sources of information to provide a more comprehensive and consistent measure of protection for vulnerable groups across a wide range of settings, including the whole of social care and the national health service. The new scheme will make it far more difficult for abusers to gain access to some of the most vulnerable groups in society.

In November 2006, the Department launched the first ever national Dignity In Care campaign. Our intention is to create a care system where there is zero tolerance of abuse and disrespect of older people and a situation where people are as outraged by the abuse of parents and grandparents as they are at the abuse of children.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, all health and adult social care providers that come within the scope of registration will be required to register with the new regulator of health and social care services, the Care Quality Commission (CQC). We expect CQC to begin its work in April 2009, when it will take over the duties of CSCI, the Healthcare Commission and the Mental Health Act Commission.

CQC will provide assurance of essential levels of safety and quality of care to people using health and adult social care services in England. Our aim is to ensure that the registration system will apply equally to all health and adult social care providers, whether from the NHS, local authority or independent sectors. For the first time, there will be a single coherent, enforceable set of requirements for all providers of these services. In order to be granted registration, care providers will need to demonstrate that they can meet, or are already meeting the registration requirements. To maintain registration, they will be required to demonstrate an ongoing ability to meet those requirements.

Continuing Care

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities were providing long-term care services to people with *(a)* low needs, *(b)* moderate needs, *(c)* substantial needs and *(d)* critical needs in each year since the Fair Access to Care Services criteria were introduced. [205089]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The data are not held centrally.

Home Care Services

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received local authority-funded, long-term care services in their own homes in each local authority area in each year since the Fair Access to Care Services criteria were introduced. [205088]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A table showing the estimated number of clients receiving home care funded fully or partially by the local authority during the period 1 April to 31 March for each year since 2003-04, has been placed in the Library.

Some of the services may not necessarily be for long-term home care and there are no data held centrally to show the length of time the service has been in place.

Learning Disability: Day Centres

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many day centres serving people with learning disabilities and their families have closed since March 2001; and what alternative services were provided in each case. [204610]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

It is for local authorities to decide on the closure of a day centre and to determine what services they provide to best meet the needs of their local populations. This includes services for people with learning disabilities.

In our consultation on "Valuing People Now", we said that we recognise that, for many families, day centres have provided essential respite from the day to day demands of caring. The services that replace them must result in improvements for both users and their families. Copies of the consultation document are available in the Library.

The consultation to "Valuing People Now" has now closed and we will be responding with our full strategy in the early autumn.

Learning Disability: Health Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consideration his Department has given to increasing the number of *(a)* health facilitators and (b) learning disability liaison nurses in the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [204675]

(2) which NHS trusts have a disability equality scheme in place; and how many such schemes include provision to meet the needs of patients with learning disabilities; [204682]

(3) how many people with a learning disability had a health action plan in place at the latest date for which figures are available; [204683]

(4) how many *(a)* learning disability liaison nurses and *(b)* health facilitators there are in the national health service; and how many of each are on (i) permanent and (ii) fixed-term contracts; [204689]

(5) what plans he has to reduce the health inequalities experienced by people with a learning disability; and if he will make a statement. [204690]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We will be looking at these and other roles on primary care and specialist services as part of our consideration of the consultation responses to "Valuing People Now". The deadline for responses to this consultation was 28 March 2008 and the responses are currently being analysed. We will publish a revised strategy which takes account of the consultation responses in the early autumn.

The Department's good practice guidance on "Commissioning specialist adult learning disability services", published in October 2007, highlights the importance of the health facilitation role working with

primary care teams, community health professionals and staff involved in delivering secondary health care.

The information requested on how many learning disability liaison nurses and health facilitators there are in the national health service, and how many of each are on permanent and fixed-term contracts is not held centrally. We do notcollect data on national health service staff contracts.

Information on the numbers of learning disability liaison nurses and hea'th facilitators: neither group is separately identified in the NHS workforce census. However, the number of specialist learning disability nurses is collected in the census and this information is shown in the following table.

The information on how many NHS trusts have a disability equality scheme is not collected centrally. All NHS trusts are required under the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act to publish disability equality schemes that set out, among other things, how they intend to meet their duties towards disability equality. To assist them in this the Department published best practice guidance—"Creating a disability equality scheme a practical guide for the NHS"—in October 2006. Further guidance, specific to learning disabilities, is to be published shortly.

The information requested on how many people with a learning disability had a health action plan in place is not held centrally.

The Department recognises that more needs to be done to improve access to NHS services for people with learning disabilities. That is why health care is one of the key priorities within the "Valuing People Now" consultation document.

The Department has committed to a wide-ranging programme of action, set out in the document "Promoting Equality" that was published in March 2007 (and copies of which are available in the Library) to respond to recommendations made by the Disability Rights Commission. This action includes:

a programme of work to support wider implementation of annual health checks for people with learning disabilities;

supporting primary care trusts (PCTs) (as commissioners of health services) in understanding and acting on the needs of people with learning disabilities and involving them in commissioning and reviewing services, in particular through sponsoring PCT commissioning 'exemplar sites';

overseeing work with professional, regulatory and educational bodies to address understanding of learning disability in education and training for general practitioners, nurses and other health staff;

improving the way that the Department of Health and the NHS evaluate key health initiatives for their impact on people with learning disabilities; and

improving collection and management of information about health needs, services and health outcomes for people with learning disabilities and developing a more coordinated approach to performance monitoring.

The Department published commissioning guidance for specialist learning disability health services—"Commissioning specialist adult learning disability health services—Good practice guidance 31 October 2007—and will shortly publish further guidance on meeting the disability equality duty in relation to people with learning disabilities. The Department is also taking forward a Human Rights in Health Care Programme, helping the NHS to recognise and respect the fundamental human rights of all patients.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, England as at September 2007

Headcount

	Community and learning disabilities	*Other learning disabilities*
All qualified nursing	3,512	4,106
Nurse consultant	24	10
Modern matron	18	19
Community matron	[1]	[1]
Manager	110	229
Registered nurse—children	[1]	[1]
Registered midwife	[1]	[1]
Health visitor	[1]	[1]
District nurse	[1]	[1]
School nurse	[1]	[1]
Other 1st level[2]	3,235	3,621
Other 2nd level[2]	125	227

[1] Not applicable.
[2] Other 1st and 2nd level include staff coded as community psychiatric nurses (CPN) and community learning disabilities nurses (CLDN) with a specific recordable community qualification.

Full-time equivalent

	Community and learning disabilities	*Other learning disabilities*
All qualified nursing	2,986	3,607
Nurse consultant	23	10
Modern matron	18	19
Community matron	[1]	[1]
Manager	105	220
Registered nurse—children	[1]	[1]
Registered midwife	[1]	[1]
Health visitor	[1]	[1]
District nurse	[1]	[1]
School nurse	[1]	[1]
Other 1st level[2]	2,748	3,151
Other 2nd level[2]	92	207

[1] Not applicable.
[2] Other 1st and 2nd level include staff coded as CPN and CLDN with a specific recordable community qualification.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care 2007 Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Meat Hygiene Service

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet representatives of the Red Lion Abattoir, Nantwich, to discuss the effect on them of the changes in the Meat Hygiene Service referred to in the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1801W, on the Meat Hygiene Service. [204541]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* The Meat Hygiene Service Business Manager, in whose area the Red Lion Abattoir is located, held a meeting with the abattoir's representatives on the 28 March. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce himself and discuss the changes taking place in the Meat Hygiene Service. The abattoir's representatives raised no specific issues or concerns about these changes.

NHS: PFI

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the effects will be on his Department's *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 of bringing NHS private finance initiative projects on balance sheet. [203442]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced in the March 2008 budget that the accounts of central Government Departments would be produced under International Financial Reporting Standards from financial year 2009-10. The Department is now undertaking a full assessment of moving to the new standards which includes examining the accounting and resource (capital and revenue) implications for the national health service's private finance initiative and other public private partnership schemes.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Trust area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [203470]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Trust area in each year since 2001. [203470]

The latest available figures of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer are for the year 2005. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer are collected by the eight regional cancer registries in England and collated by Office for National Statistics (ONS). The cancer registration data held by ONS does not include NHS Trust.

Information on newly diagnosed cases of cancer by NHS Trust is held by the regional cancers registries in England. Details of the regional cancer registries in England can be found in Chapter 6 of Cancer statistics: Registrations, Series MB1, available from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

The number of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer by primary care trust was given in reply to a question asked by Christopher Fraser MP on 22 April 2008, reference 201666, but not yet published in the Official Report.

St. Luke's Hospital Market Harborough

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will investigate the rate of progress of the redevelopment of St Luke's Hospital in Market Harborough; and if he will make a statement. [204854]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: East Midlands Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reports that the public consultation on the future of community health services in Leicestershire and Rutland, including St. Luke's hospital and other community hospitals, is now planned to commence later in the year, following a change to the national and regional NHS Next Stage Review: "Our NHS, Our Future" timetable.

The review by Leicestershire county and Rutland primary care trust (PCT) of community health services is part of a broader national review being carried out across the national health service in England, which is now almost complete. The national review is the culmination of nearly a year of engagement with NHS staff, patients and stakeholders which will influence the shape, style and delivery of health care for the next 10 years. In turn, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland NHS trusts have been reviewing how they can work together to deliver the best health care services for the communities they serve.

The national and regional timetable has been revised to take into account further detail at national and regional level, and this means that Leicestershire county and Rutland PCT will need to wait to ensure that its proposals are consistent with the wider picture.

The East Midlands SHA further reports that it is planned that the PCT's Board will approve the public consultation document at its meeting on 5 June 2008, and the public consultation will follow this.

Following the public consultation, the PCT will prioritise developments to its community hospitals according to a number of criteria, including local needs, minimising service disruption, and availability of capital finance.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Dance

6. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to assist the development of dance. [204453]

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department provides to dance as a cultural activity. [204466]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS sponsors Arts Council England to promote and invest in the development of the arts, including dance. Arts Council England's investment in dance in 2008-09 is £46.5 million, an increase of almost 100 per cent. since 1996-97. This funding will support dance companies and organisations across the country.

At the same time, the recent Government response to Tony Hall's dance review has committed £5.5 million to youth dance and dance in schools (over the next three years).

Big Lottery Fund

10. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he next expects to meet representatives of the Big Lottery Fund to discuss its administrative costs. [204457]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Chairman and the Board of the Big Lottery Fund are committed to keeping their administrative costs to a minimum.

Film

11. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to promote collaboration between British and other European film producers. [204459]

Andy Burnham: The UK is signed up to the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production which promotes collaboration between British and other European film producers. Since its inception in 1994 the UK has participated in 412 co-productions under the convention.

Also, the UK Film Council actively works to encourage collaboration at key film festivals such as Cannes and the Berlinale by providing networking and information sharing opportunities for UK and European filmmakers.

Stonehenge

12. **Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for the future of Stonehenge; and if he will make a statement. [204460]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's plans for the future of Stonehenge remain to find a new solution to improve the setting for this iconic World Heritage Site, including new visitor facilities, in time for the Olympics in 2012. To this end, the Stonehenge Project Board has been reconvened and has met twice since December.

National Museums

13. **Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of recent trends in visits to national museums. [204461]

Margaret Hodge: The most recent figures show that visits to the former charging sponsored museums in England have almost doubled since the introduction of free access in December 2001. This represents an extra six million visits a year or 37 million visits over the six years since entry charges were abolished.

Overall, visits to the national museums are continuing to increase each year, with number of visits rising from 24 million in 1997-98 to over 40 million in 2007-08.

Digital Switchover

16. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on digital switchover, with particular reference to assistance for vulnerable people. [204465]

Andy Burnham: Figures from the Ofcom Digital Television Update October to December 2007 showed that nationally, 86.7 per cent. of homes had converted their primary set to digital.

Help will be available from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme for those aged 75 or over and those with disabilities. Those outside the scheme who may still need some additional assistance can get help from the digital outreach programme set up by Digital UK.

Women and Girls' Sport

18. **Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to increase participation by women and girls in sport and fitness activities. [204467]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is committed to ensuring that people from all sections of society are given the opportunity to participate in sport; and to breaking down the barriers that prevent them from doing so.

Sport England provides annual funding to the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation, which works to improve and promote opportunities for women and girls in sport.

Sport England is developing a new strategy to deliver a world leading community sport system, to sustain and increase participation in sport, and allow everyone to develop their sporting talent to the full. Sport England will encourage more people from under-represented groups to get involved in sport, including women and girls.

Through the joint DCMS and DCSF PE and Sport Strategy for Young People the Government are investing an additional £100 million to offer five hours of high quality PE and sport to all pupils aged five to 16 and three hours for those aged 16 to 19. This will bring our total investment to at least £755 million over the next three years and will enable the provision of further sporting opportunities that recognise and respond to girls' needs and abilities.

Pistol Shooters

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on arrangements for target pistol shooters to train and compete in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [204462]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have had no recent meeting to discuss the issue of Olympic target pistol shooters. This issue is being taken forward by colleagues at the Home Office who have secured agreement in principle from the Ministry of Defence on use of their ranges by a small squad of elite pistol shooters. Home Office Ministers have also agreed to allow a small number of elite shooters to possess their pistols at home for 'dry training', subject to satisfactory checks under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968.

Amusement Arcades

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 on the *(a)* seaside amusement arcade and *(b)* bingo industries. [204587]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I intend to issue a written ministerial statement very shortly, setting out the Government's position on this and a number of related issues.

Arts Council England: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant in aid Arts Council England received in each year since 1997. [203091]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport gave Arts Council England the following grant in aid in each year since 1997. The figure for 2007-08 is the forecast outturn. Figures for 2008-09 - 2010-11 are the Arts Council's resource grant in aid allocation.

	GIA income (£000) (outturn figures)
1997-98	179,026
1998-99	179,337
1999-2000	212,248
2000-01	238,179
2001-02	252,455
2002-03	290,405
2003-04	325,955
2004-05	369,859
2005-06	409,178
2006-07	427,862
2007-08	422,610
2008-09	428,955
2009-10	443,455
2010-11	466,955

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Heritage Lottery Fund made to *(a)* Lexington Communications, *(b)* Morgan Allen Moore, *(c)* Stratagem and *(d)* Greenhaus Public Communications in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202277]

Margaret Hodge: The Heritage Lottery Fund has provided the following information about the dates, amounts and purpose of payments made by them to Lexington Communications, Morgan Allen Moore, Strategem and Greenhaus Public Communications during the last five years:

Date	*Agency*	*Net amount (£)*	*Purpose/service*
Between 1 April 2005-31 March 2008	Lexington Communications	330,066.13	Strategic communications advice in the UK, and information monitoring of the UK Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, Northern Ireland Assembly and Greater London Assembly
Between 1 April 2005-31 March 2008	Morgan Allen Moore	17,340.63	Strategic communications advice in Wales
Between 1 April 2005-31 March 2008	Stratagem	4,112.50	Strategic communications advice in Northern Ireland
Between 1 April 2005-31 March 2008	Greenhaus Public Communications	160,179.73	Strategic communications advice in Scotland

The Heritage Lottery Fund has stated that providing a breakdown of individual payments or annual figures may compromise its ability to secure value for money in future tenders and that figures for financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Gambling Commission made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202278]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission has confirmed it made one payment of £11,374.00 (including VAT) on 27 March 2008 to Grayling Political Strategy for the purpose of communications support and media monitoring services.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments English Heritage made to *(a)* Citigate Public Affairs and *(b)* Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202279]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage has provided the following information about the dates, amounts and purpose of payments made by them to Citigate Public Affairs and Grayling Political Strategy during the last five years:

Date	Agency	Purpose	Amount (£)
2003-04	Citigate Public Affairs	Parliamentary monitoring	[1]3,265
2004-05	Citigate Public Affairs	Parliamentary monitoring	3,300
2005-06	Citigate Public Affairs	Parliamentary monitoring	3,300
2005-06	Grayling Political Strategy	Communications consultants for Stonehenge project	[2]43,479.99
2006-07	Citigate Public Affairs	Parliamentary monitoring	3,300
2006-07	Grayling Political Strategy	Communications consultants for Stonehenge project	[3]15,481.34
2007-08	Citigate Public Affairs	Parliamentary monitoring	3,300
		Cover for absence of English Heritage's parliamentary relations manager	1,375[4]
			4,675
	Citigate Public Affairs	Total	[5]7,840
	Grayling Political Strategy	Total	[6]58,961.33

[1] Payment for Citigate's parliamentary monitoring service is made monthly. The rate increased in May 2003 so the 2003-04 total is the sum of one month at £240 and 11 months at £275.
[2] This is the total of four invoices as follows: dated 20 December 2005 for £5,170; 22 February 2006 for £9,047.50; 28 March for £28,505.81 and 31 March for £756.68. The first three were in respect of communication and stakeholder management advice and the fourth for costs associated with an exhibition and reception for parliamentarians.
[3] This is the total of two invoices, one dated 16 May 2006 for £9,647.46 and the other dated 20 December 2006 for £5,833.88; both are for communication and stakeholder management advice.
[4] Two payments of £687.50 were added to the October and November 2007 regular parliamentary monitoring invoices.
[5] Net
[6] Including VAT

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council made to Citigate Public Affairs in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202280]

Margaret Hodge: The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has provided the following information about the dates, amounts and purpose of payments made by them to Citigate Public Affairs during the last five years. They also confirmed that they cancelled their contract with Citigate Public Affairs in July 2007.

Date	Purpose/service	Net amount (£)
23 September 2003	Strategic communications advice	2,523.50
21 October 2003	Strategic communications advice	8,106.22
28 November 2003	Strategic communications advice	431.51
9 December 2003	Strategic communications advice	5,036.99
27 January 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,000.00
17 February 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,000.00
23 March 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,045.53
23 March 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,000.00
25 May 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,070.90
2 June 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,000.00
21 September 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,052.27
21 September 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,000.00
21 September 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,079.05
21 September 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,592.00
1 November 2004	Strategic communications advice	542.48
1 November 2004	Strategic communications advice	5,000.00
12 April 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
16 May 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
7 June 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
28 June 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
16 August 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
23 August 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service	500.00
6 September 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
11 October 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00

Date	Purpose/service	Net amount (£)
1 November 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service and strategic communication advice	1,385.80
15 November 2005	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
24 January 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	1,700.00
24 January 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service and strategic communication advice	3,860.73
14 February 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
14 March 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
14 March 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	500.00
31 March 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
18 July 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
18 July 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
18 July 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	1,000.00
5 September 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	1,500.00
5 September 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service and strategic communication advice	3,000.00
19 September 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service and strategic communication advice	2,000.00
4 October 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	1,000.00
5 October 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	376.71
5 October 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	837.50
24 November 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	1,000.00
18 December 2006	Parliamentary monitoring service	1,000.00
17 January 2007	Parliamentary monitoring service	750.00
31 January 2007	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
20 February 2007	Parliamentary monitoring service	637.97
2 March 2007	Parliamentary monitoring service	850.00
30 March 2007	Parliamentary monitoring service and strategic communication advice	2,500.00
30 March 2007	Parliamentary monitoring service and strategic communication advice	2,500.00
25 May 2007	Parliamentary monitoring service and strategic communication advice	6,001.52
27 July 2007	Parliamentary monitoring service and strategic communication advice	2,474.99
Total		119,959.67

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the British Library made to Fishburn Hedges in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202281]

Margaret Hodge: The British Library has provided the following information about the dates, amounts and purpose of payments made by them to Fishburn Hedges during the last five years:

Invoice date	Purpose/service	Amount[1] (£)
28 November 2003	Spending review—consultancy	17,813.71
30 November 2003	Spending review—consultancy	14,148.10
11 February 2004	Spending review—second stage	28,863.82
30 April 2004	Spending review—final stage	12,059.08
16 April 2007	Digital Object Management Programme—internal engagement—Design	5,360.28
22 May 2007	Digital Object Management Programme—internal engagement—Develop	1,580.38

[1] Including VAT

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments Sport England made to Strategic Communications Consultancy FD-LLM in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202282]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has provided the following information about the dates, amounts and purpose of payments made by them to FD-LLM during the last five years:

Date	Net amount (£)	Purpose/service
Monthly between May 2006 and November 2007	5,750 per month	Public affairs support to the national and regional communications teams, producing briefing materials in advance of meetings, providing administrative support for Sport England's Parliamentary Sports Fellowship Scheme and support at Annual Party Conferences.
Monthly between December 2007 and March 2008	9,250 per month	As aforementioned, plus additional weekly policy tracking service, policy briefings and the specific support on Whitehall and Westminster activities that FD-LLM provides.
Monthly since April 2008	8,500 per month	As aforementioned.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the British Museum made to Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202283]

Margaret Hodge: The British Museum has provided the following information about the dates, amounts and purpose of payments made by them to Weber Public Affairs during the last five years:

	Amount (including VAT)	*Purpose/service*
27 January 2004	1,057.50	Local stakeholder relationship advice
23 March 2004	293.75	Local stakeholder relationship advice
27 March 2004	352.50	Local stakeholder relationship advice
25 May 2004	1,527.50	Local stakeholder relationship advice
29 June 2004	352.50	Local stakeholder relationship advice
6 July 2004	22.09	Miscellaneous (expenses)
20 July 2004	352.50	Assisting in establishing the Museum's Community Liaison Group
5 October 2004	528.75	Assisting in establishing the Museum's Community Liaison Group
2 November 2004	352.50	Assisting in establishing the Museum's Community Liaison Group
21 December 2004	470.00	Assisting in establishing the Museum's Community Liaison Group
18 January 2005	2,018.42	Assisting in establishing the Museum's Community Liaison Group
26 April 2005	1,292.50	Assisting in establishing the Museum's Community Liaison Group
19 May 2005	46.52	Miscellaneous (expenses)
10 January 2006	727.03	Local stakeholder relationship advice for the Museum's listed building consent application for the Reading Room
31 January 2006	1,784.53	Local stakeholder relationship advice for the Museum's listed building consent application for the Reading Room
25 July 2006	1,057.50	Local stakeholder relationship advice for the Museum's listed building consent application for the Reading Room
10 October 2006	2,604.45	Local stakeholder relationship advice for the Museum's listed building consent application for the Reading Room
17 April 2007	462.66	Stakeholder relationship advice for the Museum's development projects
18 January 2008	528.75	Stakeholder relationship advice for the Museum's development projects
Total	15,831.95	

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the National Lottery Commission made to Hill & Knowlton in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202306]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Lottery Commission has provided the following information about the dates, amounts and purpose of payments made by them to Hill and Knowlton during the last five years:

Date	*Amount (including VAT) (£)*	*Purpose/service*
7 December 2005	15,079.93	All payments made to Hill and Knowlton between 7 December 2005 and 16 November 2007 inclusive were for media relations support, strategic communications advice, planning and stakeholder engagement support for the Third National Lottery Licence Competition.[1]
20 January 2006	4,465.00	[1]—
20 January 2006	19,712.39	[1]—
20 January 2006	1,609.75	[1]—
7 February 2006	11,460.25	[1]—
14 March 2006	16,632.21	[1]—
24 March 2006	12,458.11	[1]—
24 March 2006	3,416.15	[1]—
4 May 2006	21,782.76	[1]—
31 May 2006	27,000.62	[1]—
31 August 2006	64,800.15	[1]—
12 October 2006	12,039.22	[1]—
19 October 2006	1,243.62	[1]—
9 November 2006	8,985.35	[1]—
30 November 2006	9,860.60	[1]—
31 January 2007	12,422.93	[1]—
21 February 2007	16,592.18	[1]—
28 February 2007	9,625.64	[1]—
26 March 2007	34,660.49	[1]—
4 May 2007	9,880.32	[1]—

Date	Amount (including VAT) (£)	Purpose/service
24 May 2007	10,320.60	[1]—
7 June 2007	11,503.49	[1]—
13 August 2007	19,684.16	[1]—
29 August 2007	3,988.19	[1]—
9 October 2007	15,228.00	[1]—
16 November 2007	51,403.19	[1]—
28 November 2007	15,878.06	Media relations and strategic planning
4 January 2008	29,258.35	Stakeholder and media relations support
22 February 2008	27,457.52	Stakeholder and media relations support
25 March 2008	14,040.83	Stakeholder and media relations support
Total	512,490.06	

Cricket: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* exchequer and *(b)* lottery funding was given to the Chance to Shine cricket programme in each of the last three years. [205156]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England advises that £2.5 million was awarded by the National Sports Foundation NSF (exchequer) to the Chance to Shine scheme. All of this had been paid by the end of the 2007-08 financial year. £2 million was also awarded to the scheme by Sport England (Lottery Fund Money) for the funding period December 2005 to March 2007. All of this money has been paid out.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies of his Department were disciplined or dismissed for (i) alleged breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years for which information is available. [205316]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No officials have been either dismissed or disciplined for alleged breaches of data protection requirements or inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in any of the last three years.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department met the civil service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204704]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has met all of its targets set out on page 51 of the Cabinet Office annual report 2007.

	Women	Ethnic Minority	Percentage Disabled
Target set for DCMS	37	4	3.2
Target at 31 March 2008	41	7	3
Exceeded target	4	3	Met

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department are engaged *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in aspects of his Department's responsibilities relating to tourism. [202521]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The number of staff working part-time on aspects of the Department's responsibilities for tourism is 18. As part of our re-structuring, we have established a central programme team and where necessary, would call on resources there to undertake specific projects or programmes of work relating to tourism policy. Five of the nine staff working full-time on tourism issues have already been drawn from this team.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205045]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not built smoking shelters at any of its London buildings in the last five years.

Sports: Attendance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government has taken to facilitate family attendance at sporting and cultural events. [203577]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* We are working closely with the sporting and cultural sector's strategic delivery bodies including Arts Council England, English Heritage, the Museums Libraries and Archives Council, and Sport England to ensure that we maximise our impact on increasing attendance and participation rates including families.

These bodies deliver through a range of programmes and initiatives with cultural organisations at regional and local level.

This includes continuing to fund free admission to sponsored museums, investment in programmes such as Renaissance in the Regions, promoting family-related activities in public libraries, a family friendly toolkit designed by the Arts Council to support arts organisations, English Heritage's historical events programme and Heritage Open Days, Sport England's work to increase the number of people participating in community sport, and the Youth Sport Trust's work to encourage parents to become involved as leaders and coaches.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has allocated to sports and leisure governing bodies in each of the last three years, broken down by activity. [198697]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* My Department does not fund sport and leisure national governing bodies directly. This is done by Grant-in-Aid and Lottery funding through Sport England and UK Sport. The figures supplied by both bodies are:

Combined funding to national governing bodies

	£
2005-06	114,338,236
2006-07	163,951,312
2007-08	122,164,193

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	£ *Total*
Activities funded via Sport England Exchequer				
Angling	185,000	0	40,000	225,000
Archery	15,000	15,000	0	30,000
Athletics	1,127,000	367,000	670,462	2,164,462
Badminton	170,000	207,500	176,875	554,375
Basketball	216,000	163,500	137,750	517,250
Boxing	0	5,000	20,000	25,000
Canoeing	45,000	132,500	127,500	305,000
Caving	5,000	2,500	0	7,500
Cricket	655,000	2,186,500	2,831,600	5,673,100
Cycling	117,917	414,345	235,000	767,262
Disabled Sport	0	467,033		467,033
Equestrian	35,000	35,000	69,000	139,000
Fencing	50,000	30,000	0	80,000
Football	916,000	356,000	3,845,000	5,117,000
Golf	149,000	209,000	308,250	666,250
Gymnastics	544,000	377,000	380,000	1,301,000
Handball	7,000	3,500	0	10,500
Hockey	188,000	215,500	255,231	658,731
Ice Skating	25,000	25,000	0	50,000
Judo	60,000	85,000	84,500	229,500
Lacrosse	289,333	17,000	25,000	331,333
Life Saving	7,000	3,500	0	10,500
Mountaineering	170,000	5,000	0	175,000
Movement and Dance	25,500	22,000	4,750	52,250
Multi Sports	861,000	823,101		1,684,101
Netball	180,000	193,500	182,500	556,000
Orienteering	135,000	45,000	44,250	224,250
Petanque	5,000	0	0	5,000
Real Tennis	6,000	3,000	0	9,000
Rounders	100,000	0	50,000	150,000
Rowing	76,667	122,500	112,625	311,792
Rugby League	140,500	1,683,500	1,682,500	3,506,500
Rugby Union	965,000	1,874,250	2,512,488	5,351,738
Sailing	75,000	158,462	146,213	379,675
Shooting	6,500	0	0	6,500
Skiing	40,000	30,000	0	70,000
Squash	146,000	200,700	182,500	529,200
Swimming	701,000	462000	460,000	1,623,000
Table Tennis	179917	179571	212,625	572,113
Tennis	61000	1,820,000	1,811,250	3,692,250
Triathlon	75,000	15,000	118,699	208,699
Tug of War	3,250	1,500	0	4,750
Volleyball	417,917	108,000	123,250	649,167
Water Skiing	35,000	0	0	35,000
Windsurfing	0	0	80,000	80,000
Wrestling	10,000	5,000	0	15,000
Total	9,221,501	13,069,462	16,929,818	39,220,781
Lottery				
Angling	0	184,999	500,000	684,999
Athletics	3,213,312	5,513,853	6,674,483	15,401,648
Badminton	3,509,290	6,709,065	2,089,000	12,307,355
Baseball	1,200,000	0	801,500	2,001,500
Bobsleigh	9,400	28,200	0	37,600
Basketball	811,000	650,000	965,000	2,426,000
Boxing	963,528	1,630,200	230,000	2,823,728
Canoeing	1,550,000	1,860,000	1,809,000	5,219,000
Cricket	2,355,350	10834224	2,534,230	15,723,804
Cycling	2,920,000	4,176,000	445,000	7,541,000
Equestrian	1,000,000	906,000	1,405,200	3,311,200
Football	9,216,694	0	0	9,216,694
Golf	2,000,000	6,000,000	1,537,000	9,537,000
Gymnastics	2,022,198	1945948	2,357,916	6,326,062
Hockey	2,031,623	3,130,000	195,000	5,356,623
Ice Skating	86,875	0	51,281	138,156
Judo	3,893,108	0	1,082,190	4,975,298
Karate	450,000	250,000	0	700,000
Lacrosse	840,000	0	467,000	1,307,000
Modern Pentathlon	585,000	444,000	0	1,029,000
Mountaineering	0	600,000	180,000	780,000
Movement and Dance	0	150,000	410,000	560'000
Multi Sports	131,790	3,389,300	1,032,991	4,554,081
Netball	2,742,911	8,100,452	1,567,852	12,411,215
Orienteering	285,000	375,000	725,980	1,385,980
Rounders	0	300,000	110,000	410,000
Rowing	2,900,000	2,247,000	1,863,008	7,010,008
Rugby League	2,450,000	7,050,000	0	9,500,000
Rugby Union	3,709,355	4,567,969	0	8,277,324
Shooting	96,000	0	0	96,000
Skiing	2,557,000	3,054,000	1,214,376	6,825,376

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£ Total
Squash	1,525,000	4,500,000	1,241,500	7,266,500
Swimming	6,922,793	5,909,654	195,000	13,027,447
Table Tennis	3,475,000	0	155,000	3,630,000
Taekwondo	30,000	0	0	30,000
Tennis	8,122,928	0	0	8,122,928
Triathlon	801,250	1,709,400	1,134,764	3,645,414
Volleyball	0	990,000	490,995	1,480,995
Water Skiing	140,000	525,000	0	665,000
Wrestling	54,628	0	125,040	179,668
Total	74,601,033	87,730,264	33,590,306	195,921,603
Activities funded via UK Sport				
Exchequer				
Airsports	47,345	51,560	49,032	147,937
Athletics	2,452,935	3,624,139	2,526,300	8,603,374
Archery	55,076	378,084	441,391	874,551
Badminton	1,730	101,287	859,901	962,918
Basketball	3,370	9,265	1,939,973	1,952,608
Baseball	107,445	171,845	171,633	450,923
Biathlon	0	1,470	0	1,470
Bob Skeleton	128,562	5,998	0	134,560
Bobsleigh	62,935	83,990	110,000	256,925
Boccia	0	0	138,894	138,894
Bowls	4,095	3,165	1,130	8,390
Boxing	11,215	432,370	1,034,725	1,478,310
Canoe	483,685	993,044	1,006,147	2,482,876
Caving	12,530	5,500	0	18,030
Curling	70,750	55,295	38,713	164,758
Cycling	2,640,682	3,829,661	4,213,961	10,684,304
Disabled Sport	102,674	208,665	860,822	1,172,161
Equestrian	289,295	1,338,374	2,436,144	4,063,813
Fencing	54,350	288,898	514,927	858,175
Football	6,378	0	0	6,378
Golf	0	10,334	0	10,334
Gymnastics	738,504	434,942	835,539	2,008,985
Handball	5,025	418,570	873,720	1,297,315
Hang Gliding and Paragliding	30,000	30,000	30,000	90,000
Hockey	47,913	2,493,456	2,552,743	5,094,112
Ice Hockey	515	1,850	1,723	4,088
Ice Skating	129,000	64,500	0	193,500
Judo	306,250	489,609	664,541	1,460,400
Karate	2,040	2,155	2,685	6,880
Lacrosse	8,085	31,065	6,085	45,235
Life Saving	9,625	3,895	3,885	17,405
Modern Pentathlon	160,000	350,000	416,000	926,000
Motor Cycling	8,125	11,105	6,397	25,627
Mountaineering	85,655	60,550	25,630	171,835
Netball	4,150	6,351	8,237	18,738
Orienteering	235,197	228,990	255,981	720,168
Parachute	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000
Physical Education	0	0	2,067	2,067
Rowing	2,459,484	6,504,953	5,894,828	14,859,265
Rugby League	39,485	0	0	39,485
Rugby Union	22,115	0	0	22,115
Sailing	20,000	26,246	23,000	69,246
Shooting	186,928	523,125	956,700	1,666,753
Snowsports	169,435	166,385	259,106	594,926
Squash	8,930	12,195	26,863	47,988
Swimming	357,679	2,602,668	3,217,243	6,177,590
Table Tennis	13,080	353,358	397,476	763,914
Taekwondo	40,000	274,383	360,293	674,676
Target Shooting	0	0	5,534	5,534
Tennis	0	41,500	162,700	204,200
Triathlon	326,755	169,185	361,704	857,644
Volleyball	12,505	442,910	1,039,921	1,495,336
Water Skiing	207,525	222,050	230,693	660,268
Weight Lifting	97,660	172,445	531,538	801,643
Wrestling	20,000	275,730	338,590	634,320
Yachting	1,908,346	3,348,503	3,432,309	8,689,158
Total	14,220,063	31,380,618	39,292,422	84,893,103
Lottery				
Airsports	7,066	1,570	0	8,636
Athletics	1,406,370	4,013,947	2,805,725	8,226,042
Archery	451,506	673,759	704,191	1,829,456
Badminton	164,000	1,505,935	1,615,483	3,285,418
Basketball	0	0	14,000	14,000
Bob Skeleton	126,718	427,240	518,311	1,072,269
Bobsleigh	77,164	28,928	33,364	139,456
Boccia	41,361	48,639	43,306	133,306
Boxing	0	359,416	355,292	714,708
Canoe	1,183,098	1,938,157	2,480,794	5,602,049
Curling	147,790	54,919	159,280	361,989
Cycling	550,414	2,651,865	2,602,704	5,804,983
Disabled Sport	991,523	1,069,332	730,364	2,791,219
Equestrian	1,491,607	1,960,858	1,454,059	4,906,524
Eventing	60,000	7,555	0	67,555
Fencing	213,412	242,970	423,317	879,699
Figure Skating	0	0	4,000	4,000
Football	50,000	0	10,000	60,000
Gymnastics	582,440	1,423,756	1,523,126	3,529,322
Handball	0	0	213,776	213,776
Hockey	0	0	672,393	672,393
Ice Skating	227,549	272,402	284,258	784,209
Judo	667,231	1,205,266	1,433,197	3,305,694
Modern Pentathlon	508,615	949,439	1,167,758	2,625,812
Orienteering	76,550	0	0	76,550
Rowing	1,214,881	1,266,978	1,405,482	3,887,341
Rugby Union	3,642	250,000	39,000	292,642
Sailing	243,200	107,200	180,118	530,518
Shooting	424,952	477,176	542,450	1,444,578
Snowsports	260,000	151,473	75,749	487,222
Swimming	3,279,806	5,545,293	5,574,219	14,399,318
Table Tennis	0	222,450	252,700	475,150
Taekwondo	229,648	326,796	543,745	1,100,189
Tennis	65,244	187,854	63,415	316,513
Triathlon	709,755	716,927	776,238	2,202,920
Volleyball	0	122,000	261,850	383,850
Weight Lifting	132,032	181,396	143,469	456,897
Wrestling	104,376	118,287	317,645	540,308
Yachting	603,689	3,261,185	2,926,869	6,791,743
Total	16,295,639	31,770,968	32,351,647	80,418,254

Strip Clubs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the change in the number of lap-dancing clubs licensed by local authorities since the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003. [205404]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold this information. As part of its data collection in connection with the Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin, which was published on 8 November 2007, the Department has broadly recorded a number of licensable activities that have been carried out under the 2003 Act. However, these data are not broken down into specific types of entertainment, such as lap dancing.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish his Department's report on measuring elasticities of tourism demand. [203012]

Margaret Hodge: We expect to publish our report estimating elasticities of tourism demand in July.

VisitBritain: Publications

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the VisitBritain Strategic Review of UK Tourism Support. [203877]

Margaret Hodge: I expect to publish the VisitBritain Strategic Review by the end of July.

JUSTICE

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204109]

Maria Eagle: As a central Government Department, the Ministry of Justice supports DEFRA's Global Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). As the Ministry was created in May 2007 and the 2007-08 data have not yet been verified and offset, we are unable to provide data for the Ministry of Justice. For 2005-06, the Home Office will report on their old structure and the Ministry of Justice will report on the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs joined the GCOF in 2006 and offset £606.72 for the 2006-07 reporting year. The payment was made to the GCOF approved portfolio of Certified Emission Reductions from Trading Emissions plc. More information can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204391]

Mr. Straw: In the last 12 months, Ministers in this Department have visited Scotland twice, Wales six times and Northern Ireland five times. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Diamond Project

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will hold discussions with *(a)* Unlock, *(b)* other representatives of the third sector, *(c)* individuals and *(d)* companies on the Diamond Project. [203197]

Mr. Hanson: There has been regular communication between my Department and Unlock over the past six months, the latest of which was a letter I wrote to them on 22 April 2008. They have also met with officials.

Drugs: Misuse

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* proceeded against, *(b)* found guilty and *(c)* imprisoned for the offence of possessing (i) heroin, (ii) cocaine, (iii) ecstasy and (iv) LSD under section 5(2) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in each of the last 10 years. [200549]

Mr. Straw: The number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts for possession of cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and LSD, and subsequently found guilty at all courts, and sentenced to immediate custody in England and Wales, for the years 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following tables.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for possession of cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and LSD, and subsequently found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Proceeded against			
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine	*Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin*	*Having possession of a controlled drug: LSD*	*Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA*
1997	1,194	3,698	205	1,132
1998	1,829	4,819	173	810

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for possession of cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and LSD, and subsequently found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Proceeded against			
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine	*Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin*	*Having possession of a controlled drug: LSD*	*Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA*
1999	2,268	5,236	150	1,369
2000	2,048	5,436	68	2,064
2001	2,133	5,849	77	2,626
2002	2,387	5,494	47	2,277
2003	2,668	4,832	49	2,156
2004	2,901	4,461	45	1,921
2005	3,352	4,158	68	1,765
2006	4,190	4,184	54	1,618

	Found guilty			
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine	*Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin*	*Having possession of a controlled drug: LSD*	*Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA*
1997	1,050	3,248	203	1,048
1998	1,644	4,331	167	753
1999	2,039	4,814	141	1,262
2000	1,874	5,058	67	1,951
2001	1,968	5,411	67	2,493
2002	2,230	5,042	40	2,165
2003	2,448	4,556	43	2,009
2004	2,740	4,256	40	1,853
2005	3,183	3,954	61	1,677
2006	4,001	3,961	47	1,539

	Sentenced to immediate custody			
	Having possession of a controlled drug: Cocaine	*Having possession of a controlled drug: Heroin*	*Having possession of a controlled drug: LSD*	*Having possession of a controlled drug: MDMA*
1997	70	319	15	62
1998	103	500	16	51
1999	146	591	13	69
2000	140	595	3	106
2001	147	635	3	151
2002	142	560	—	100
2003	153	484	—	81
2004	132	428	—	60
2005	154	384	4	61
2006	187	370	2	62

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(2) (Class 'A' Drug).
Having possession of a controlled drug:-Cocaine.
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(2) (Class 'A' Drug).
Having possession of a controlled drug:-Heroin.
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(2) (Class 'A' Drug).
Having possession of a controlled drug:-LSD.
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(2) (Class 'A' Drug).
Having possession of a controlled drug:-MDMA.
[3] MDMA (3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine) is also known as "ecstasy".
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

House of Lords: Reform

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on further reform of the House of Lords. [204016]

Mr. Straw: Following an invitation from the Leader of the House, the Cross-Party Group on House of Lords Reform has received three written representations from peers. These have been circulated to members of the Cross-Party Group, with an invitation to comment on proposals in the papers. In addition, I have received one representation from a joint group of MPs and peers. We also continue to receive correspondence on this subject from members of the public.

Prison Governors' Association

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Prison Governors' Association on the introduction of prison councils. [204286]

Mr. Hanson: The policy on prisoners' councils is set out in PSO 4480, a copy of which I have placed in the Libraries of the House. The Prison Governors' Association have not discussed, or requested to discuss, this issue with either the Secretary of State or Prisons Ministers. National Offender Management Service officials maintain an ongoing dialogue with PGA representatives, and are willing to discuss with the PGA any views or concerns it may have.

Prison Service: Females

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to encourage more women to become prison governors. [204282]

Maria Eagle: Although the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not target women differentially, either in the provision of development opportunities to Prison Service employees, or in its recruitment and selection processes, it works to maximise access across all groups; and the proportion of women in the senior operational manager and operational manager grades has increased from 19.5 per cent. in April 2005 to 22.9 per cent. in April 2008. In particular, NOMS operates two fast-track schemes for direct entry into operational manager grades—the intensive development scheme and the senior prison manager programme. In the three most recent completed campaigns, 54 per cent. of SPMP recruits, and 65 per cent. of IDS recruits, have been female.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female prison governors there are. [204283]

Maria Eagle: The numbers of in-charge governors and deputy governors in public sector prison establishments are as follows:

	In-Charge	*Deputy Governors*
Female	25	30
Male	93	86
Total (excluding vacant posts)	118	116
Percentage female	21.2	25.9

The 11 contracted prison establishments (which do not use the same grading structures as the public sector service) employ four female directors (equivalent to in-charge governor) and three female deputy directors.

Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of category C prisoners are detained in category D prisons. [204308]

Mr. Hanson: Category C prisoners are not held in category D prisons. All prisoners are assessed as to their risk of escape or abscond, which ensures allocation of prisoners to a prison providing appropriate levels of security. Only those considered suitable would be held in category D open conditions.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken to re-categorise prisoners. [204309]

Mr. Hanson: The information required for such an assessment is not collated centrally and could be obtained only by asking every prison to review the categorisation history of a sufficiently large sample group of prisoners. This could not be done without incurring disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Further Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the impact of the churn of prisoners on further educational provision in prisons. [204288]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice are working with the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills as well as the Learning and Skills Council to minimise the effect on learning of prisoner movements between prisons. This work includes facilitating the LSCs roll-out of a learner summary record to assist with educational record availability. In addition the current offender skills and curriculum area reviews are expected to produce a consistent core to the curriculum offered wherever prisoners are held.

Prisoners: Grendon Prison

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners in *(a)* HMP Grendon and *(b)* HMP Springhill are from the Thames Valley area. [204264]

Maria Eagle: As at 31 March 2008 (the latest date for which figures are available);

(a) At HMP Grendon, 11 per cent. of the prisons' population come from the Thames Valley area.

(b) At HMP Spring Hill, 32 per cent. of the prisons' population come from the Thames Valley area.

Prisoners: Pay

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how his Department defines purposeful activity for which prisoners are eligible for payment. [204281]

Maria Eagle: Purposeful activity is defined as undertaking work, induction, education, training or offending behaviour programmes. These are set out in Prison Service Order 4460 Prisoners' Pay.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse of each prisoner was in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [201811]

Mr. Hanson: The average resource cost per prisoner was as follows:

	£
2006-07	37,500
2005-06	36,400
2004-05	34,100
2003-04	33,000
2002-03	35,800

The figures include the total expenditure of HM Prison Service and also prison-related expenditure met centrally by the National Offender Management Service. From 2003-04 expenditure on prisoners' health is the responsibility of the Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government as appropriate and is not included. Expenditure on prisoners' education is the responsibility of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and is not included.

Prisoners: Personal Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances prisoners are allowed to retain personal items of value while in custody; and what restrictions apply in such circumstances. [204258]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners may retain a reasonable amount of their personal property with them while in custody. The amount and type of property retained is at the discretion of the governor and restrictions will apply for the maintenance of good order and security. Any property which a prisoner states to be of particular value must be recorded as such and placed in secure conditions with the prison establishment unless the governor allows the prisoner to retain it in his/her possession.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the impact on the rehabilitation of prisoners of the interaction between inmates and prison staff on prison councils. [204287]

Maria Eagle: The policy on prisoners' councils is set out in PSO 4480, a copy of which I have placed in the Library. While there has been no formal assessment of the impact of prison councils on the rehabilitation of prisoners, any engagement with prisoners is seen as constructive and enables staff to understand issues from a prisoner's perspective.

Prisoners: Release

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners released while on the waiting list for approval for day release in the last 12 months; [204279]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken for a prisoner to be approved for day release. [204310]

Mr. Hanson: Data are not held centrally on the length of time taken to consider an application for temporary release as each application is considered on its merits. The volume of information required to complete the necessary risk assessment will vary according to the individual circumstances of the prisoner and the type of release applied for. Likewise, data are not held centrally on the number of prisoners released from custody on completion of their sentence while waiting for an application for temporary release to be considered.

The Prisoners' Requests and Complaints procedures are available to prisoners for any complaints they may have about any aspect of prison life. Prisoners may use these procedures to make a complaint to the Governor if they consider their ROTL application has been unduly delayed.

Prisons: Carbon Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures are in place to ensure that prisons take steps to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. [203301]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service is working with the Carbon Trust to undertake a full Carbon Management Program. They are also in the process of undertaking an energy awareness campaign across the Prison estate that is due to commence this month for all staff.

Young Offender Institutions: Drugs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* inmates of and *(b)* visitors to young offender institutions were found to be in possession of illegal drugs in each year since 1997. [203897]

Mr. Hanson: The best measure of the number of inmates found in possession of illegal drugs can be drawn from the adjudications data for the offence of possession of a controlled drug. Data are not published by establishment type at this level of offence detail.

The published data are available on the Ministry of Justice website. The latest data can be found in supplementary tables 9.4M&F, 9.4M and 9.4F to the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006. Similar tables are available for the publications covering the years 1997-2005. Before 2003, please refer to Prison Statistics, England and Wales, chapter 8.

Link to OMCS 2006:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Link to Prison Statistics, England and Wales:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcsa.html

Visitors

The number of visitors to prisons found in possession of illegal drugs is not recorded. The number of incidents occurring in establishments that involved the arrest of a visitor and a drug being found are given in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of incidents involving visitors to YOIs being arrested and an illegal drug being found*
1996-97	213
1997-98	188
1998-99	134

Financial year	Number of incidents involving visitors to YOIs being arrested and an illegal drug being found
1999-2000	53
2000-01	29
2001-02	62
2002-03	50
2003-04	86
2004-05	34
2005-06	45
2006-07	23
2007-08	41

This has been matched by a parallel reduction in drug misuse as measured by random mandatory drug testing.

All data in this answer have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

All data in this answer are drawn from establishments designated by the Prison Service Strategy and Performance Group as Young Offender Institutions. They exclude some establishments which are not deemed YOIs but do house young offenders. Typically these are "split" establishments which cater for both adults and young offenders. It is important to note that the number of establishments deemed to be YOIs has varied since 1996-97.

Young Offender Institutions: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* psychologists, *(b)* psychiatrists and *(c)* psychiatric nurses work in (i) privately and (ii) publicly operated youth offender institutions in England and Wales. [202775]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested for young offender institutions (YOIs) in England is not collected.

In England, a national mapping and inventory exercise of child health, child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and maternity services is undertaken annually by the Department of Health and Durham University.

The next report will, for the first time, include data specific to children and young people subject to the criminal justice system. This is expected in November 2008.

Further information is available on the Child Health, CAMHS and Maternity Mapping website at:

http://www.childhealthmapping.org.uk/

The commissioning of secondary/tertiary care health services to YOIs based in Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government/NHS Wales.

Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries sustained by offenders held in *(a)* secure training centres, *(b)* secure children's homes and *(c)* young offender institutions resulted in the offender receiving hospital treatment in each year since 2000, broken down by establishment; and if he will make a statement. [204314]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board has collected data on self-harm, assault and restraint using common definitions across the secure estate since April 2007. Data compiled before that time are not comparable between different sectors.

The following table shows the requested information for the period 1 April 2007 to 29 February 2008. It shows the number of injuries resulting in hospitalisation as a result of assault, restraint or self-harm in secure training centres, young offender institutions and secure children's homes.

	2007									2008	
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*
Secure training centres											
Hassockfield	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Rainsbrook	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Oakhill	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0
Medway	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Young offender institutions											
Ashfield	1	0	3	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Pare	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Brinsford	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Castington	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0
Feltham	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5
Hindley	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huntercombe	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Lancaster Farms	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Stoke Heath	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren Hill	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Werrington	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Wetherby	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

	2007									2008	
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*
Cookham Wood[1]	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Downview	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Eastwood Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foston Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
New Hall	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secure children's homes											
Aldine House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Atkinson Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aycliffe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barton Moss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clayfields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Moor	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gladstone House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillside Secure	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kyloe House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orchard Lodge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton Place	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swanwick Lodge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vinney Green	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

[1] Cookham Wood was not occupied for part of the period.

Note:
Data provided by the YJB. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Young Offender: Crimes of Violence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many instances of prisoner-on-officer violence were recorded in each *(a)* secure training centre, *(b)* secure children's home and *(c)* young offender institution in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [204372]

(2) how many instances of prisoner-on-prisoner violence were recorded in each *(a)* secure training centre, *(b)* secure children's home and *(c)* young offender institution in each year since 2000, broken down by establishment; and if he will make a statement. [204374]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 897W.

Young Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of hours per day spent in purposeful activity was by prisoners in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* juvenile custodial institutions in each week of February and March 2008. [204259]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the average number of hours per day spent in purposeful activity by prisoners in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* juvenile custodial institutions, for each week in February and March 2008.

Week commencing	*YO male*	*Juvenile male*
3 February 2008	3.9	4.2
10 February 2008	3.7	4.1
17 February 2008	3.8	4.2
24 February 2008	3.7	4.3
2 March 2008	3.8	4.2
9 March 2008	3.7	4.2
16 March 2008	3.5	3.9
23 March 2008	3.2	3.8
30 March 2008	3.6	4.2

Note:
Data are provisional and subject to end year validation.

Young Offenders: Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the average number of hours of education undertaken by a prisoner in a young offender institution per week. [204263]

Mr. Hanson: The average number of hours spent in educational activity per week per prisoner in young offender and juvenile institutions during 2007-08 was 12.2 hours. Data are provisional and subject to end year validation, which may see an increase in educational activity undertaken by prisoners.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arson

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of arson to the economy in each of the last five years. [204983]

Mr. Dhanda: Estimates for the cost of arson to the economy for the five years to 2004 are shown as follows. Work will commence this year to produce estimates for subsequent years. Around 60 per cent. of the estimated costs are directly attributable to the occurrence of arson fires, with the remainder due to measures taken in anticipation of arson fires, such as installing fire prevention measures.

Total cost of deliberate fires, England and Wales, 2000-04

£ million

	Total cost (including costs in anticipation)	Total cost (excluding costs in anticipation)
2000	2,155	1,289
2001	2,442	1,513
2002	2,581	1,587
2003	2,768	1,694
2004	2,445	1,366

Source:
CLG Economic cost of fire model

Caravan Sites: Squatting

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to deal with the illegal use of caravans sited in holiday parks as permanent residences. [204008]

Mr. Iain Wright: When granting planning permission for the use of land as a site for caravans for holiday use, local authorities may impose conditions which prevent the caravans from being used at certain times of the year. The aim of such conditions is generally to ensure that the premises are only used by visitors and do not become part of the local housing stock.

Where a condition is breached, local authorities can serve a breach of condition notice to ensure that the conditions are complied with.

Children in Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of children's homes were assessed as providing inadequate provision in each year from 1996-97 to 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [201141]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

Since April 2007, children's homes have been regulated by the Chief Inspector for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills; prior to that they were regulated by the Commission for Social Care Inspection. Data on the outcome of inspections of individual homes are not held centrally by this Department.

We recognise that standards need to improve and are taking a number of steps to improve provision in children's homes. The Children and Young Persons Bill, currently before Parliament, includes provisions to strengthen the Chief Inspector's powers to address poor performance. In addition, we are taking forward work, through the Children's Workforce Development Council, to develop a framework of skills which all those caring for children in residential homes will be expected to demonstrate. We will also be piloting a social pedagogic approach in children's homes, in order to support residential care staff in working more effectively with children in a group setting.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2133W, on community relations, when she expects to publish guidance on tension monitoring. [203976]

Mr. Dhanda: I have today published DCLG's guidance for local authorities on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring. It is a web based tool and can be found on the DCLG website:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/cohesionplanning

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions she has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204400]

Ms. Dhanda: In the last 12 months, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government visited Scotland once and Wales once. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many freedom of information requests made to her Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201720]

Mr. Dhanda: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of requests for information other than routine or "normal course of business" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working

days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however Communities and Local Government answered 88 per cent. of resolvable requests "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, there were 103 such requests, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are treated in the statistics as routine business.

Fire Prevention: Insurance

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Association of British Insurers on the use of Section 4.4 of the Technical Briefing on Fire Performance of Sandwich Panel Systems document (2003) by panel manufacturers. [204531]

Mr. Iain Wright: The purpose of the Association of British Insurers (ABI) Technical Briefing is to assist insurance surveyors and under-writers to assess the use of sandwich panels in the construction of buildings, with respect to potential economic loss in the event of a fire.

Current statutory provisions and supporting standards for fire protection in buildings are made only for the purposes of securing the health and safety of people in and around buildings, not to reduce economic loss, therefore no such discussions have taken place with the ABI.

Fire Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions fire and rescue services were required to evacuate residents from their homes in each year since 1994. [204838]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Aviation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many aircraft incidents were attended by the fire service in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [204986]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of aircraft incidents attended by fire and rescue services since 1997-98 is set out as follows.

Aircraft incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England, 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Number
1997-98	299
1998-99	378
1999-2000	231
2000-01	194
2001-02	259
2002-03	178
2003-04	211
2004-05	238
2005-06	187
2006-07	235

Fire Services: Injuries

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters were injured in the course of operational incidents in fire and rescue services in England in each of the last 10 years. [204837]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of firefighters that were injured in operational incidents in fire and rescue services in England since 1998-99 is tabled as follows. Information prior to 1998-99 is not held centrally.

Firefighters in England injured attending operational incidents between 1998-99 and 2006-07

Fire and Rescue Service	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon	55	80	92	85	131	94	46	33	37
Bedfordshire and Luton	61	44	43	28	33	7	31	15	19
Buckinghamshire	37	27	24	24	10	21	15	14	21
Cambridgeshire	69	64	44	46	35	48	34	40	39
Cheshire	49	46	49	39	48	59	58	23	32
Cleveland	25	37	29	n/a	32	43	29	34	43
Cornwall	17	33	40	27	33	31	28	37	18
County Durham and Darlington	41	41	31	32	53	33	28	0	16
Cumbria	40	43	61	41	43	36	40	26	23
Derbyshire	85	58	71	46	49	35	63	23	26
Devon	68	78	109	52	50	65	41	41	39
Dorset	43	47	47	79	43	65	52	40	37

Firefighters in England injured attending operational incidents between 1998-99 and 2006-07

Fire and Rescue Service	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
East Sussex	35	51	26	57	47	86	55	61	73
Essex	67	92	103	89	62	102	67	73	103
Gloucestershire	31	25	49	45	40	44	36	19	26
Greater Manchester	232	293	261	219	184	188	176	129	118
Hampshire	50	76	81	50	50	80	38	21	10
Hereford and Worcester	29	14	34	29	38	43	45	23	30
Hertfordshire	35	57	51	42	62	135	73	80	26
Humberside	63	90	57	91	81	58	62	29	26
Isle of Wight	7	22	6	16	16	6	4	6	18
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Kent	92	97	79	81	60	104	88	79	67
Lancashire	42	61	76	n/a	62	59	67	47	45
Leicestershire	50	35	47	36	41	39	13	16	16
Lincolnshire	33	15	22	27	18	18	19	21	6
London	431	448	486	388	387	413	244	238	199
Merseyside	79	112	74	61	83	90	133	59	71
Norfolk	41	65	40	56	47	64	34	34	46
North Yorkshire	39	37	34	28	32	39	24	35	34
Northamptonshire	37	30	44	47	55	52	63	51	47
Northumberland	20	19	24	19	14	20	19	16	13
Nottinghamshire	65	69	62	75	96	67	48	58	36
Oxfordshire	53	45	39	61	22	36	13	22	22
Royal Berkshire	60	64	69	31	34	47	19	25	28
Shropshire	28	22	16	28	26	27	15	22	20
Somerset	48	24	24	60	33	60	16	16	14
South Yorkshire	47	65	66	85	86	74	55	56	57
Staffordshire	55	75	113	54	62	64	87	84	49
Suffolk	65	78	61	49	65	63	16	18	51
Surrey	91	49	54	54	110	233	84	104	86
Tyne and Wear	103	110	95	96	99	95	46	37	41
Warwickshire	28	32	27	22	17	52	30	27	11
West Midlands	140	135	140	146	155	228	219	138	107
West Sussex	52	51	63	45	27	42	25	40	52
West Yorkshire	101	141	121	144	111	123	100	90	72
Wiltshire	26	18	21	31	25	32	17	22	24
Total	2,965	3,215	3,205	2,861	2,909	3,420	2,515	2,122	1,996

n/a = Information not available.
[1] In 2002-03 there was a period of industrial action, which lasted for 15 days.

Fire Services: Youth Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of *(a)* the Wiltshire Fire Service Salamander scheme and *(b)* other fire service youth community projects. [204234]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department commissioned research, published in March 2006, looking into the effectiveness of youth training and diversion schemes. The research found that where schemes were evaluated independently there are examples of projects that have achieved clear and demonstrable outcomes for young people. Such outcomes include boosting young people's confidence and motivation; changing attitudes towards offending and antisocial social behaviour; and achieving re-engagement with education. The Wiltshire Fire Service Salamander scheme was not launched until July 2006 and therefore did not form part of the Department's research.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of young people who have participated in youth community projects run by fire services in England in each of the last three years. [204235]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department provided £11.4 million funding for 2006-08, through its Fire Prevention Grant, to Fire and Rescue Services in England to develop a range of schemes, some of which are youth community projects. The Department has commissioned evaluation of the grant scheme, including levels of participation, which will be published later this year.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which youth community projects are run by fire services in England. [204236]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not hold centrally a list of youth community projects run by fire and rescue services in England. The results of a recent London fire brigade national survey of youth focused projects run by fire and rescue services will be jointly published by London fire brigade and the Department later in the summer.

Fires

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total insured fire losses for *(a)* dwellings and *(b)* commercial premises in each fire and rescue service were in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by region. [204984]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not available centrally. However, the ABI represents the majority of the UK insurance market and publishes annual statistics on the total value of claims from domestic and commercial fires each year. This information is available by subscribing to the ABI's statistical service.

Greenbelt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Prime Minister's Statement of 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1449-51, on the draft legislative programme, what the Government's policy on Green Belt *(a)* designation and *(b)* protection is. [205431]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's policy on the designation and protection of green belt is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: "Green Belts".

Proposals for new green belt should be considered through regional spatial strategies in the first instance. Local planning authorities proposing to establish a new green belt should demonstrate why normal planning and development control policies would not be adequate and whether any major changes in circumstances have made the adoption of this exceptional measure necessary. It should also show what the consequences of the proposal would be for sustainable development.

There is a general presumption against inappropriate development in the green belt. Such development should not be approved, except in very special circumstances.

As the Prime Minister made clear in his statement of 11 July 2007, we will continue robustly to protect the land designated as green belt.

Hazardous Substances

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* chemical and *(b)* fuel (i) spills and (ii) suspected spills the fire and rescue service in each fire authority area and each region attended in each year since 2001. [204985]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Homelessness

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in England and Wales were classified as homeless in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [204383]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. This information includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Data on the number of households in England accepted as being owed a main homelessness duty are also published in the Department's quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, which also provides data on the number of accepted households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter. Table 3 of the release provides a breakdown of acceptances by Government Office region for each year from 1997 onwards. The tables are published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 March 2008, and contains data for the period up to December 2007, and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/714966.xls

The Department does not hold statistics for the devolved Administrations.

Homelessness: Armed Forces

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many former armed forces service personnel were estimated to have been homeless in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [203455]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people. Information reported includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation.

Since 2005, data have been collected on the number of accepted households whose reason for loss of last settled home was having left HM forces. In 2007, 211 applicants accepted as owed the main homelessness duty cited the reason for loss of their last settled home as having left HM forces, representing 0.3 per cent. of total acceptances.

Information is also available by the priority need of the household. In 2007 there were 36 households accepted as being in priority need primarily as a result of being vulnerable through having served in HM forces. This represents less than 0.1 per cent. of all acceptances in the year. However some ex-forces personnel will be hidden within other priority need categories, for example, the presence of dependent children or having a mental illness), and so will not show up as ex-forces in these figures.

Many of those applicants with the HM forces priority need are likely to have the reason for loss of having left HM forces accommodation, so there will be overlap between the two figures.

Local authorities who conduct rough sleeper counts collect information on any individuals sleeping rough, and these are published annually on our website. Figures include those rough sleepers who have previously served in HM forces, but these are not shown separately.

Rough sleeping among ex-armed forces personnel has dropped. There are no specific data for 1997 but studies at the time suggested between a quarter and one fifth of rough sleepers had been in the armed forces at some stage. There is specific information for London provided under the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) recording system. In 2006-07, for those rough sleepers in London contacted by services, 5 per cent. had spent some time in the armed forces in the past. This has remained consistent over the last four years.

Households: Temporary Accommodation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless households were in temporary accommodation in *(a)* each Government Office region and *(b)* each local authority in each year since 1997. [204520]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data on the number of households in temporary accommodation in each Government office region are published in the Department's quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, at the end of each quarter.

Table 7 of the statistical release provides information on temporary accommodation by Government office region for each year from 1997 onwards. The tables from the latest release, published on 10 March 2008, have been deposited in the Library of the House and are available from our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/714966.xls

A table summarising homelessness figures for each local authority for the past 10 years, including the total number of households in temporary accommodation, is available in the Library of the House.

Housing: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the requirements are on local authorities to prioritise service personnel for accommodation. [203989]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under section 167 of the Housing Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act"), local authorities must allocate housing in accordance with their allocation scheme. Such schemes must give reasonable preference to certain categories of person (e.g. those who are homeless, those in overcrowded housing and those who need to move on medical or welfare grounds). The legislation also allows (but does not require) local authorities to take into account other factors in determining relative priorities between those in the reasonable preference categories, including whether or not a person has a local connection with the local authority district. Local connection is defined by s.199 of the 1996 Act. This is particularly relevant in the case of service personnel, since, under the current legislation, a person will not establish a local connection with an area because of residence or employment while he is posted there in the armed forces.

The homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) provides an important safety net for people who become homeless or threatened with homelessness. In particular, English local housing authorities must secure suitable accommodation for applicants who are eligible for assistance, homeless through no fault of their own and fall within a priority need group. The priority need groups include applicants who are vulnerable for some reason, including those vulnerable as a result of having been a member of the armed forces.

The Housing and Regeneration Bill which is currently before Parliament will amend section 199 to remove the provisions which prevent members of the armed forces from establishing a local connection in a district through employment or residence and will ensure that members of the armed forces are put on an equal footing with civilians when applying to local authorities for social housing and/or homelessness assistance.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the launch of the Green Homes Service. [204357]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers and officials have regular discussions with Ministers and officials at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, including on policies to promote the environmental sustainability of homes.

Housing: Foreigners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals who are not UK citizens are housed by *(a)* Cross Keys Homes and *(b)* other registered social landlords in Peterborough under the Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) Regulations 2004. [162842]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on individuals housed by registered social landlords who are not UK citizens and who are subject to the Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) Regulations 2004 is not collected centrally.

Housing: Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment her Department has made of the impact of immigration on housing demand in the United Kingdom. [199852]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Hitchin and Harpenden (Mr. Lilley) on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1259W.

Housing: Insulation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will issue guidance to *(a)* home improvement agencies and *(b)* other agencies responsible for introducing energy efficiency measures on the effect of different weather conditions on older Bradstone-built houses when adapting those houses through the installation of cavity wall insulation. [204674]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government has no plans to issue further guidance on cavity wall insulation beyond that which already exists within the Building Regulations Part C—site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture. This indicates that the complete filling of cavities in a cavity masonry wall, for all property types, is not recommended in certain locations and under certain weather conditions.

Further guidance on the installation of cavity wall insulation is provided by the Energy Saving Trust and also within Building Research Establishment's booklet BR 262—Thermal insulation: avoiding the risks.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in the London borough of Bexley in each year since 1997. [204912]

Mr. Iain Wright: Figures for the number of affordable homes built in the London borough of Bexley are tabulated in the table. The figures include Social Rent and Intermediate Affordable Housing new build; they exclude affordable housing acquisitions.

New build affordable homes in the London borough of Bexley

	New affordable homes—New Builds
1997-98	129
1998-99	83
1999-2000	98
2000-01	40
2001-02	6
2002-03	138
2003-04	31
2004-05	62
2005-06	58
2006-07	101

Source:
Registered Social Landlord new build figures from the Housing Corporation, Local Authority new build completions from P2 returns

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measure of inflation her Department uses in calculations affecting shared equity home ownership schemes sponsored by her Department and its agencies. [204925]

Mr. Iain Wright: Measures of inflation used in calculations affecting the Government's sponsored shared ownership and shared equity schemes relate to rent and equity loan charges.

Rent paid under the Government's New Build HomeBuy shared ownership scheme is capped at 3 per cent. of the value of the un-owned equity in the first year, with a target of 2.75 per cent. From the second year, the rent can increase by the Retail Price Index plus 0.5 per cent. This charging arrangement is set out in the shared ownership lease.

The Government's new shared equity Open Market HomeBuy scheme enables purchasers to buy a property with the help of an equity loan. The loan is required to be repaid on resale of the property or earlier, if the purchaser wishes. The amount which is repaid is based on the market value of the property at the date of repayment or sale. The charges on the equity loan vary depending on which one of two products is chosen by purchasers.

Housing: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons additional restrictions on extended permitted development rights for households *(a)* apply in conservation areas and *(b)* do not apply in (i) areas of outstanding natural beauty and (ii) national parks. [202591]

Mr. Iain Wright: Additional restrictions on householder permitted development rights generally apply equally to conservation areas, areas of outstanding natural beauty and national parks.

On 6 April 2008 the Government introduced changes that allow for certain types of small-scale renewable energy to be installed by householders without the need to apply for planning permission. On balance, and given the desire to encourage the take-up of microgeneration, it was decided that a more restrictive approach should apply to conservation areas, but not to national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty. We believe that development of the scale permitted will not have an adverse impact on national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty which are protected because of the beauty of the natural landscape.

Local Government and Regeneration Division

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1266W, on the local government and regeneration division, if she will list each of the smaller boards, working groups and committees within the division referred to in her answer. [202470]

Mr. Dhanda: Local Government and Regeneration Group co-ordinates the following smaller boards, working groups and committees. The number, remit, and membership of such smaller boards and working groups changes depending on the group's business at any one time.

Settlement Working Group

Capital Programme Working Party

Central Local Information Partnership
Local Government Pension Scheme Policy Review Group
Firefighters' Pension Scheme 111 Health Review Group
Firefighters' Pensions Committee
Assessment, Inspection and Review Project Board
Innovation, Capacity and Efficiency Project Board
Outcomes, Indicators and Targets Project Board
Governance and Partnerships Project Board
Local Area Agreements/Multi-Area Agreements Project Board
Digital Inclusion Team Project Board
Data Interchange Hub Project Board
Cleaner Safer Greener Communities Sounding Board
Green Flag Advisory Board
Regeneration Framework Steering Group
Regeneration Framework Working Group
Officials Group on the Regeneration of East Manchester
Worklessness Joint Board
Business Engagement Network
Local Authority Restructuring Project Board
Community Empowerment Project Board.

Mobile Homes

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* park homes and *(b)* caravans intended as holiday and temporary accommodation which are registered with local authorities. [204193]

Mr. Iain Wright: No park homes or caravans are required to be registered with local authorities. Caravan sites (including park home sites) are required to have a site licence issued by the local authority under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

We estimate there are approximately 84,000 park homes on 1,950 sites in England intended for residential use. The industry estimates there are 240,000 caravans on 3,000 sites in England intended as holiday accommodation. No estimate has been made of the number of caravans intended as temporary accommodation.

Planning Permission: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the application of the de minimis principle, in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy, will be in terms of number of buildings or value of buildings; and if she will make a statement. [204949]

Mr. Iain Wright: In its publication of 24 January 2008 on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the Government announced that there would be a de minimis threshold below which development would not be liable to pay CIL. This would include householder development by homeowners and could, subject to consultation, include some development deemed to have been granted permission under the General Permitted Development Order.

The Government have announced that it will take a criteria-based approach towards considering whether there should be any exemptions from CIL, and the details of how CIL will operate will be set out in secondary legislation, which will be subject to full consultation. Further announcements on CIL will be made in due course.

Planning: Floods

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment her Department has made of planning regulations in the light of the floods in summer 2007. [204343]

Mr. Iain Wright: Sir Michael Pitt's interim conclusion from his inquiry into the lessons learned from the floods last summer, is that the new policy in Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk (PPS25), is sound but should be rigorously applied by local authorities. Work on achieving this is already well in hand. The Practice Guide to PPS25, which will provide practical advice to local authorities on implementing the policy, is due to be published shortly.

We have decided to amend the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995, so that in future, householders will only be able to pave over their front gardens without planning permission, if the surface provided would be permeable. We are taking this step because surface water run-off was a significant contributory factor to last summer's floods. We anticipate this amendment coming into force in October.

Regional Equality and Diversity Partnerships

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name and address of each regional equality and diversity partnership is; and how much funding is allocated to each for 2008-09. [203056]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government do not require the creation of regional equality and diversity partnerships. However, such partnerships have been formed in a number of regions and are funded by a variety of organisations, both public (including regional development agencies, regional assemblies, local authorities and the Big Lottery Fund) and private (including business, trade associations and trade unions).

Identifying and disaggregating each public and private organisation's contribution to their activity could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The names and addresses of those partnerships for which we have contact details are:

	Address
Equality South West	East Reach House, East Reach, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3EN
West Midlands Equality and Diversity Partnership	Regional Partnership Centre, 3rd Floor, Albert House, Quay Place, 92-93 Edward Street, Birmingham, B1 2RA

	Address
Northwest Equality and Diversity Leadership Group	PO Box 37, Renaissance House, Centre Park, Warrington, WA1 1XB
North East Equality and Diversity Partnership	Metropolitan House, Longrigg, Swalwell, Gateshead, NE16 3AS
East of England Equalities and Diversity Network	Flempton House, Flempton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6EG

Repossession Orders: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent reports she has received on strategies to manage housing repossessions in each housing authority in Hampshire; and if she will make a statement. [202929]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under the Homelessness Act 2002, local authorities were required by July 2003 to publish a strategy for tackling and preventing homelessness and ensuring that accommodation and support is available to people in their district who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This must be reviewed and published every five years and as such all authorities must have completed a review by July 2008.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Detainees: Guantanamo Bay

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response he has received from the US authorities on the Government's request for the return of Mr. Binyam Mohamed from Guantanamo Bay; and what reports he has received of plans to try Mr. Mohamed before a US military tribunal. [200080]

David Miliband: As I set out in my written ministerial statement on 13 December, *Official Report*, columns 56-57WS, the US is not currently inclined to agree to our request for the release and return of Mr. Mohamed to the UK. However, my officials continue to discuss his case with the US. While he was charged under the previous Military Commissions arrangements, our contacts with the US have not revealed formal proceedings against him under the new Military Commissions Act.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of the United States on the Military Commissions Act. [204320]

Dr. Howells: UK officials most recently discussed the Military Commissions Act with the US Government in February 2008, in the context of discussions over Binyam Mohamed, a former UK resident currently detained at Guantanamo Bay.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of the United States on the treatment of unlawful enemy combatants. [204321]

Dr. Howells: Officials have most recently discussed treatment of "unlawful enemy combatants" with the US in the context of discussions over the two former UK residents currently held at Guantanamo Bay; Binyam Mohamed and Shaker Aamer.

EU External Relations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether defence attachés or military representatives of EU member states will form part of the EU's proposed External Action Service; and if he will make a statement. [204574]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There have not yet been any detailed discussions on the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS), but its creation will have no impact on the ability of national Defence Attaches and Military Representatives to perform their bilateral representative duties. The decision to launch the EEAS will not be taken until after the Treaty enters into force.

Gaza: Borders

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2322W, on Gaza: borders, what conditions need to be met for the EU border assistance mission at the Rafah crossing to resume operations; and if he will make a statement. [204080]

David Miliband: The EU is ready to consider resuming its border assistance mission at Rafah (Gaza-Egypt crossing) when the parties agree and when the security conditions allow.

Jordan: Tourism

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Minister of Tourism of Jordan on sustainable tourism. [204458]

Dr. Howells: The subject of the welfare of the horses which serve the tourism industry at Petra is one of real concern to many British visitors. There is a long history of efforts to improve the lot of the horses at Petra. The Brook hospital is well established there, providing veterinary care for the horses and awareness-raising for their owners for over 20 years. Although a great deal has been achieved over the years, there is still a need to improve the standards of treatment and welfare for the horses and further improvement on the ground is likely to take some time.

While my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to raise this specific issue with the Minister of Tourism of Jordan, officials in London have raised this with the Jordanian embassy in London

and our ambassador in Amman will be taking up this issue with a range of relevant individuals and organisations in Jordan.

South Africa: Chemical and Biological Warfare

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 7 May 2008 to Question 192701, on South Africa: chemical and biological warfare, whether the evidence given to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission considered in the investigation included evidence that Wouter Basson used a house in the home counties of England to meet UK scientists and to circumvent the sanctions regime against South Africa; and if he will make a statement. [205152]

Dr. Howells: As stated in my reply to my hon. Friend on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 935W, UK investigations initiated following allegations of assistance to South Africa's Project Coast, considered information from a variety of sources including evidence given to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. I can neither confirm nor deny details of specific evidence considered during these investigations.

Syria: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on steps the International Atomic Energy Agency should take to investigate the alleged existence of a nuclear weapons programme in Syria and its links with North Korea; and if he will make a statement. [204118]

David Miliband: The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohammed el Baradei, said on 25 April that the IAEA

> "will treat this information with the seriousness it deserves and will investigate the veracity of the information".

Mohammed el Baradei went on to say

> "under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), the agency has a responsibility to verify any proliferation allegations in a non-nuclear weapon state party to the NPT and to report its findings to the IAEA Board of Governors and the Security Council, as required".

We await the outcome of the IAEA's investigation.

The US evidence highlights the need for states to agree and implement an additional protocol if the IAEA is to be able to give adequate assurance that they have no undeclared nuclear activities.

Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which areas of domestic legislative competence are unaffected by the EU Reform Treaty. [202203]

Mr. Jim Murphy: For the first time the Lisbon Treaty defines the Union's competences, setting out where the EU can and cannot act. These competences are set out in Article 2(12) of the Treaty of Lisbon (Cm 7294 pages 52-55) presented to Parliament in December 2007. The Treaty explicitly states that competences not conferred on the EU remain with member states.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with European counterparts on the scope of responsibility of the *(a)* posts and *(b)* institutions to be established by the Lisbon Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [204729]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with all of our EU partners on a variety of issues.

The scope of responsibility of the posts and institutions provided for by the Lisbon treaty is set out in its provisions.

As set out in my letters of 22 April to the chairs of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee and Lords EU Select Committee, technical level discussions to prepare for implementation have begun. While it is only sensible to ensure that the EU is ready to implement the treaty—if all countries have ratified—we have made it clear to, and agreed with, our EU partners that no final decisions can be taken until ratification is confirmed.

United Nations: Finance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had at the UN on strategic reserves for rapid response in emergency situations. [204364]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is in regular discussions with all United Nations (UN) agencies delivering humanitarian assistance, such as the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), on the locations and quantities of their emergency stockpiles. This is part of our wider efforts to build global capacity for humanitarian response. Most recently, DFID officials met with WFP officials to discuss their Humanitarian Response Depots, which are currently being set up in five locations around the world. Emergency food supplies from the WFP stockpile in Brindisi, Italy, have already been drawn on to assist those affected by the recent cyclone in Burma.

Zimbabwe: Arms Control

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to secure an international moratorium on arms sales to Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [204088]

David Miliband: Following on from the UN Security Council discussion on 29 April, we are encouraging the Southern African Development Community countries to continue to prevent arms transfers to Zimbabwe and to further explore how the international community can support these efforts. We will continue to press for an international moratorium until democratic governance is restored to Zimbabwe.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have sold

arms to Zimbabwe in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [204087]

David Miliband: We do not maintain a record of other countries' arms purchases or sales. The EU and US have an embargo on the sale of arms to Zimbabwe and we are supporting the call for a temporary moratorium on all arms sales until Zimbabwe has a democratic government in place.

Zimbabwe: United Nations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the UK has made for action to be taken by the UN on Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [204090]

David Miliband: The deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe warrants the highest level of international engagement. In addition to various contacts I have had with UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, we have called on the UN to deploy a Human Rights monitoring mission to Zimbabwe, and strongly supported the inclusion of discussion of Zimbabwe at the UN Security Council meeting on 29 April. We will continue to press for active UN engagement, including the deployment of observers for any second round of the presidential election.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Assessments: Absenteeism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of trends in levels of absence from key stage 3 tests; how many pupils registered to take key stage 3 tests were absent from these tests in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by local authority; and if he will make a statement. [202812]

Kevin Brennan: The absence rate for key stage 3 (KS3) national curriculum tests is between 3 per cent. and 4 per cent. whereas the absence rate for key stage 2 (KS2) tests is around 1 per cent. The proportion of pupils absent or unable to access the KS3 tests in 2007, broken down by local authority, can be found on the Department's Achievement and Attainment Tables website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/ks3_07.shtml.

Bird and Bird

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contracts were awarded by his Department to Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 2005; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was. [201636]

Kevin Brennan: Since 2005, the Department has contracted with Bird and Bird using the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions open L-Cat Framework agreement for procuring external legal services. The Department does not hold a comprehensive central contracts record. However, the following table presents available information, including known payments for the contracts concerned. Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental initiative/activity supported	*Contract period*	*Contract value/payments made to Bird and Bird*
General legal advice to support the DfES Smartcard Project	2005-06	Framework Agreement used. Payments made were: 2005: £10,358 2006: £21,569
IP Telephony, Records Management BT VOIP Project	January 2005-08	Framework Agreement used. Payments made were: 2006: £4,559 2007: £24,144 2008: £13,133
ContactPoint initiative	February 2006 to March 2008	Framework Agreement Contract value was: £315,000
Electronic Common Assessment Framework	February 2008 to April 2008	Framework Agreement Contract value was: £18,835 Payments made between 2006 to 2008 total: £224,795
Education Maintenance Allowance Initiative	2005	Payment of: £17,723

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the effects of the Environment Agency's requirements for flood risk assessments on development related to the Building Schools for the Future programme in *(a)* Canvey Island and *(b)* Essex. [204601]

Jim Knight: I am aware of the issues affecting Essex's wave 4 Building Schools for the Future project—and, in particular, the schools on Canvey Island—through regular ministerial reports from officials and Partnerships for Schools (PfS). PfS and my officials have been working with the local authority to minimise the delays to the delivery of new and refurbished schools, and associated educational transformation, in south Essex. I am not aware of any specific representations to the Secretary of State.

Children and Adoption Act 2006

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to implement the provisions relating to parenting in the Children and Adoption Act 2006. [204244]

Kevin Brennan: The provisions of part 1 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 relating to Family Assistance Orders and risk assessments were implemented in October 2007. The time scale for implementing the remaining provisions in part 1 of the Act is subject to completion of a number of tasks, including preparing for the provision of 'contact activities', making necessary changes to the court rules, putting new administrative systems for court staff in place and staff training. The Ministry of Justice published a consultation paper on draft rules on 7 May. The Government will shortly be making a written ministerial statement (WMS), outlining the timetable for implementation of the remaining provisions in part 1 of the Act.

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care were placed with a member of their extended family in each of the last 10 years. [203900]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of children in care who were placed with a member of their extended family in each of the last 10 years is not collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). However, table A3, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007", shows the number of children looked after by English local authorities, who were placed with a foster carer, who was either a relative or friend at 31 March for each year from 2003 to 2007. The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

and table A3 can be found within the first set of Excel tables on the website.

Children: Abuse

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2220-1W, on children: abuse, if he will take steps to ensure that his Department's guidance on reporting alleged abuse to a local authority designated officer makes clear that this obligation is not specified in primary legislation. [204988]

Kevin Brennan: The guidance "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" sets out, in paragraphs 1.6 to 1.12, the relevant legislation pertaining to this subject. This guidance is relevant for the purposes of section 157 (and the regulations made under that section) and section 175 of the Education Act 2002. All schools, including independent schools, should use the guidance to ensure they have effective safeguarding systems in place, which include the notification of local authority designated officers.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average age of *(a)* childcarers in maintained nurseries, *(b)* childcarers in private, voluntary and independent nurseries and *(c)* childminders was in each year since 1997. [204842]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information about the age of staff working in full day care provision and the age of childminders. The 2006 figures on the percentage of full day care staff in each age group, by the ownership of the provision, are shown in Table 1. Data for previous years are not available.

Table 1: Age of all paid staff in full day care providers, by ownership of provision, 2006

Percentage

	Private	*Voluntary*	*Local authority*	*School/ college*	*Other*
16 to 19	6	2	2	1	3
20 to 24	28	13	12	13	26
25 to 29	24	12	18	21	25
30 to 39	18	28	28	25	22
40 to 49	14	30	24	21	14
50 and over	8	14	14	17	8

Note:
Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent due to rounding, 'don't know' responses and refusals to answer the question.

Table 2 shows the percentage of childminders in each age group, for each year available.

Table 2: Age of childminders

Percentage

	2003	*2005*	*2006*
20 to 39	48	45	43
40 to 49	34	37	35
50 and over	18	18	22

Note:
Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent due to rounding, 'don't know' responses and refusals to answer the question.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204107]

Kevin Brennan: The majority of central Government Departments are members of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). The GCOF aims to fulfil the Government's commitment to offset emissions attributable to all official and ministerial air travel in central Government. It is available to all central Government Departments and provides a simple and cost effective way to offset, as well as ensuring high environmental integrity. The GCOF runs for an initial period of three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09). Cabinet Office and DEFRA have offset an extra year (2005-06).

The GCOF is being managed by EEA Fund Management Ltd., who won the contract to source and deliver 255,000 Certified Emission Reduction Credits, with a provision for a further 50,000 credits, over three years from a range of Clean Development Mechanism (COM) projects. Credits will be supplied from the project portfolio of Trading Emissions plc, to whom EEA is the investment adviser.

Each GCOF participant will be able to provide cost figures for their contributions to the fund. Figures currently available cover 2005/06 (where applicable) and 2006/07. Data are currently being collected for the 2007/08 reporting year and will be available later in the year.

DEFRA has paid £60,014.07 into the GCOF, to offset some 6,056tCO2e from a variety of sources from April 2005 to April 2007.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has paid £4,635.35 into the GCOF from April 2006 to April 2007. DCSF has also paid Climate Care £94.08 to offset carbon emissions generated from the Sustainable Schools consultation exercise and launch events held during 2006/07. DCSF are committed to offsetting carbon emissions generated from the production of all Sustainable Schools materials.

Departmental Consultation Papers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* consultation papers and *(b)* new regulations have been issued by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1 January 1997; and if he will make a statement. [201199]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families, and its predecessors, (the Department for Education and Employment and the Department for Education and Skills up until 28 June 2007) have issued *(a)* 370 consultation papers and *(b)* 1,639 new regulations since 1 January 1997. The annual breakdown is shown in the following table.

	Consultations issued	*Number Regulations issued*
1997	2	70
1998	3	144
1999	3	206
2000	41	148
2001	56	167
2002	35	165
2003	45	168
2004	33	124
2005	45	150
2006	44	127
2007	51	139
2008	12	31

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200728]

Kevin Brennan: Employer contribution rates for the Teachers' Pension Scheme from 1990-91 to the present are shown in the following table. The increase in the contribution rate on 1 April 2003 reflected a change in the way the scheme was financed with pensions increase (i.e. the inflation increases in the value of pensions in payment) now reflected in the total contribution rate paid by members and their employers rather than being met separately by the Exchequer.

Period	*Rate of charge (percentage)*
1 April 1989 to 30 June 1997	8.05
1 July 1997 to 31 March 2000	7.2
1 April 2000 to 31 March 2002	7.4
1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003	8.35
1 April 2003 to 31 December 2006	13.5
1 January 2007 to present	14.1

The values of contributions received for each year are shown in the following table.

	Cost (£000)
1990-91	[1]754,353
1991-92	825,536
1992-93	907,610
1993-94	949,117
1994-95	971,009
1995-96	975,127
1996-97	1,011,146
1997-98	955,115
1998-99	950,057
1999-2000	1,006,714
2000-01	1,085,978
2001-02	1,207,778
2002-03	1,447,375
2003-04	2,506,296
2004-05	2,578,001
2005-06	2,670,087
2006-07	2,819,704
2007-08	3,020,578

[1] Data for 1990-91 have been estimated based on the total contributions made.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 402-3W, on departmental public expenditure, if he will provide a

breakdown of the proportion of his Department's budget which is not devolved to schools or local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [203923]

Jim Knight: Pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 402-3W, being 18 per cent. the following list provides a breakdown of the proportion of budgets not devolved to schools or local authorities in DCSF.

	Percentage
14-19 Reform Group	14.1
Supporting Children and Young People	0.5
Early Years, Extended Schools and Special Needs Group	0.1
Families	0.4
Safeguarding	0.1
Supporting Delivery	0.1
School Standards	0.9
School Resources	1.5
Academies and Capital	0.1
Corporate Services	0.4
Communications	0.1
Youth Taskforce	[1] 0.1
Workforce Strategy	[1]—
School Performance and Reform	[1]—
Schools Commissioner	[1]—
Total	18.4

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many public consultations were held by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and how many respondents took part in each consultation. [198632]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Education and Skills (DFES) launched 45 consultations in calendar 2005 and 44 consultations in calendar year 2006. In calendar year 2007 DFES launched 36 consultations between January and June, and the Department for Children, Schools and Families launched 15 consultations between July and December.

Consultation	*Number of responses*
2005	
Review of the future role of FE Colleges	221
Putting children first: Parenting Plans, a Planner for Separating Parents	61
Enhancement of Private Fostering Notification System	7
Consultation on new school funding arrangements from 2006-07	757
Skillset Film Industry Training Board	13
Regulations and Guidance on Plan on the Children and Young People's Plan	101
DFES Statutory guidance: Duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children	113
Children's Services Inspection Regulations	4
Skills: Getting on in business, getting on at work	84
Draft Adoption Regulations and Guidance for Consultation: Prescribed Fees (Adoptions with a foreign element) and Non-Agency Adoptions	4
School Swimming Consultation	457
Questions to Children's Information Service and Sure Start Provision	56
Children's Workforce Strategy Consultation	695
Draft Section 11 Statutory Guidance on Making Arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children	99
Building Bulletin 77: Designing for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Schools	38
Early years regulations	96
Making Safeguarding Everybody's Business: A Post-Bichard Vetting Scheme	310
Inclusion, Equality and Diversity: Data	116
NPQICL Consultation	24
School Inspection Regulations	9
Review of HE Student Finance Delivery	111
Consultation on the rationalisation of grant funding from the Children, Young People and Families Directorate to voluntary organisation	48
Consultation on Draft Code of Practice on the Provision of Free Nursery Education Places for 3 and 4 year olds	585
Review of the Future of FE Colleges	163
Draft Electronic Commerce (Adoption and Children Act 2002) Regulations 2005	0
Consultation on proposals to extend the streamlined route for schools to acquire foundation status to primary schools	20
Proposed Amendments To The Children (Prescribed Orders—Northern Ireland, Guernsey And Isle Of Man) Regulations 1991	0
Consultation on proposals to extend the streamlined route for schools to acquire foundation status to primary schools	20
Childcare Legislation	354
Somewhere to go? Something to do?	19,023
Youth matters	1,045
School Admissions: Consultation on the draft School Admissions Code of Practice, School Admission Appeals Code of Practice and assorted regulations	260
Working Together To Safeguard Children and Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations	302
A Single Inspectorate for Children and Learners	65
Consultation on a modified distribution method for the Dedicated Schools grant (DSG) for 2006-07 and 2007-08	202
New Fire Safety Guidance for Schools	28
Cross Government Guidance - Sharing Information on Children and Young People	257
European Qualifications Framework	3
Review of the regulations governing the registration of pupils in schools	182
Improving the Higher Education Applications Process	190
Turning the Tables: Transforming School Food—Recommendations for the Development and Implementation of Revised School Lunch Standards	261
Consultation on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (Amendment)(Further and Higher Education) Regulations 2006	1
Consistent Financial Reporting Framework 2006 - 07	91
Draft Standards for SEN Support and Outreach Services	171

Consultation	Number of responses
Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto	680
Green Paper: Reducing Re-Offending Through Skills and Employment	95
2006	
Consultation on Bringing Forward Teacher Assessment (TA) Submission Date for All Key Stages (Including the Foundation (Stage) From 2007	862
National minimum fostering allowances	117
School Organisation: Consultation on Secondary School Competitions and Guidance Changes	5
Transforming School Food: Standards for School Food other than Lunch	203
Childcare Registration: Fees Proposal	78
Every Child Matters - Primary Capital Programme	103
Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances	145
Professionalisation of the Learning and Skills Sector	70
The Early Years Foundation Stage - consultation on a single quality framework for services to children from birth to five	1,639
Sustainable Schools for Pupils, Communities and the Environment	508
Sustainable Schools for young people	365
First Class, Adaptable, Sustainable—Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales: Consultation	149
Performance management for teachers and headteachers	268
Reform of higher education research assessment and funding	73
The Ofsted Childcare Register	112
Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) - Timetable for all Schools	222
Child Protection: Safer Recruitment and Vetting in the Education Service	147
The Higher Education Programme—Consultation for Race Equality Impact Assessment Purposes	3
Modernising the Regulatory Framework for Children's Social Services	71
Childcare Sufficiency Assessments	81
Regulations on Extension of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 to Cover General Qualifications Bodies	12
Children Missing Education—Draft Statutory Guidance to Support Clause 4 of the Education and Inspections Bill 2006	59
School Admissions Consultation 2006	2,229
ContactPoint: Consultation on Draft Information Sharing Index, (England) Regulations and Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment	255
Data Collection Regulations	12
Consultation on draft regulations setting out the process for setting statutory targets for local authorities under the Childcare Act 2006	47
Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances—The Implications For Race Equality	4
Childcare Act 2006: Section 12 Duty to Provide Information, Advice and Assistance	71
Consultation on the Draft Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) (Religion or Belief) (Amendment) Regulations 2006	6
Care Matters: transforming the lives of children and young people in care	682
Young People's Guide to the Care Matters Green Paper	228
Amendments to regulations under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002 and the Childcare disqualification regulations which apply to applications for registration made under Part XA of the Children Act 1989	28
'Supplementary Consultation on School Admissions'	194
Education and Inspections Act 2006: Consultation on School Organisation and Governance Regulations and Guidance	19
Personalising Further Education: Developing a Vision	77
International GCSEs in the maintained sector in England	121
Definition of Full Time Education in Independent Schools	179
Financial Benchmarking—website - Identifying schools by name	279

Consultation	Number of responses
Education and Inspections Act 2006: Consultation on school travel guidance	96
European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training	21
Quality Standards for Young People's Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)	190
The Languages Review	211
Consultation on Regulations and Guidance on Management Committees for Pupil Referral Units	63
EYFS Learning and Development Requirements Order	46
2007	
Education and Inspections Act 2006: Consultation on Statutory Guidance on Schools Causing Concern	12
Statutory Guidance on Section 6 Education and Inspections Act (Positive Activities for Young People)	95
Delivering World-class Skills in a Demand-led System	381
Making Good Progress	152
Exemption from Ofsted Childcare Registration	39
Post-16 progression measure	93
Safeguarding Children from Abuse linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession	63
Consultation on draft regulations to apply section 62A of the Education Act 2002 to Pupil Referral Units	10
Securing Sufficient Childcare	48
Skills Strategy Equality Impact Assessment	13
Draft Guidance for School Staff: Screening or Searching Pupils for Weapons (Clause 45 in the Violent Crime Reduction Act)	17
Consultation on Revised Exclusions Guidance - September 2007	86
Review of the Regulations Requiring Schools Maintained by Local Authorities to Set Attendance Targets of Pupils in Schools	98
EYFS Learning and Development Exemptions	36
Consultation on school, early years and 14-16 funding 2008-11	512
DFES Guidance to Schools on School Uniform Related Policies	232
Raising Expectations: Staying in education and training post-16	473
Consultation on New Charging Regulations for Music Tuition	24
Children's Workforce Strategy Update-Spring 2007	71
Education and Training for Young People in the Youth Justice System - A Consultation	59
Childcare Registration Requirements	39
Increasing the Leaving Age - Have Your Say	973
ContactPoint: Consultation on Draft Guidance	221
Consultation on Home Education Guidelines	919
Guidance on the Duty to Promote Community Cohesion	103
Consultation on Draft Amendments to the Education (Specified Work and Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 made under the Education Act 2002	60
The Education (National Curriculum) (Foundation Stage Early (Learning Goals) (Amendment) (England) draft Order 2007 and The Education (National Curriculum) (Attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in English) (Amendment) (England) draft Order 2007	7
Raising Standards, Improving Outcomes: Draft Statutory Guidance on the Early Years Outcomes Duty	116
Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Regulations and Guidance for the Induction of Newly Qualified Teachers	77
Implementing youth matters - Continuing the dialogue with young people	949
Mandatory collection of 'P' scale data for pupils with special educational needs (SEN	54
Section 58 of Children Act 2004 Review (Consultation)	1,405
The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 1 Court Orders	35
Barring Consultation: Implementing the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Northern Ireland Order 2007	182
Increasing Voluntary Giving to Higher Education - Consultation on a matched funding scheme for English Providers of Higher Education	95
CFR Framework 2007- 08	65

Consultation	Number of responses
Schools Capital Consultation on Programme Proposals for 2008-2011	187
Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked	59
Staying Safe	330
Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) consultation about the transfer of responsibility for the registration of independent schools and the regulation of independent and non-maintained special schools (NMSSs) to Ofsted	76
Consultation into the Definition of an Independent School	64
Staying Safe – Young People's Version	709
Time to Talk	1,960
Time to Talk – Young People's Version	103
Consultation on Draft Information as to provision of education (England) Regulations 2008	36
Review of implementation of Guidance on Handling Allegations of Abuse Against Those who Work with Children and Young People	96
Key Stage 3 Test Absence Collection	21
Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006: Independent Safeguarding Authority Scheme Consultation	326
Draft Guidance To Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords On The Use of Parenting Orders and Parenting Contracts	7
Childcare Act 2006: Future Approach to Fees and Subsidies	3,639
Confidence in Standards: Regulating and developing qualifications and assessment	80

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of questions tabled to his Department for written answer on a named day in the current session have been answered on the day named as at 1 May 2008. [204209]

Kevin Brennan: Since the beginning of the 2007-08 Session and up to 30 April 2008 the Department has received a total of 3,135 PQs: 462 named day and 2,673 ordinary written PQs. The manual check of all named day PQs carried out to monitor the timeliness of replies for the months of November 2007 to April 2008 is shown in the following table.

	Total named day PQs received	Total named day PQs answered on time (percentage)
November 2007	105	30
December 2007	58	38
January 2008	104	28
February 2008	89	42
March 2008	60	75
April 2008	46	83

Home Education: Finance

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local education authorities in England provide funds for home education. [204696]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect information from local authorities specifically on the funding which they provide for home education. However, included in the following table is how much local authorities in England budgeted to spend on education otherwise than at school and PRU during the 2007-08 financial year. The Department is currently collecting the financial information for 2008-09.

Local authority name	Budgeted net expenditure on education out of school (£)
England	130,377,000
Barking and Dagenham	949,000
Barnet	252,000
Barnsley	407,000
Bath and North East Somerset	341,000
Bedfordshire	2,906,000
Bexley	122,000
Birmingham	2,884,000
Blackburn with Darwen	0
Blackpool	321,000
Bolton	525,000
Bournemouth	166,000
Bracknell Forest	338,000
Bradford	3,488,000
Brent	1,594,000
Brighton and Hove	774,000
Bristol City of	1,365,000
Bromley	377,000
Buckinghamshire	265,000
Bury	160,000
Calderdale	207,000
Cambridgeshire	2,230,000
Camden	58,000
Cheshire	2,250,000
City of London	0
Cornwall	1,470,000
Coventry	329,000
Croydon	1,342,000
Cumbria	434,000
Darlington	376,000
Derby	632,000
Derbyshire	2,646,000
Devon	3,228,000
Doncaster	422,000
Dorset	436,000
Dudley	1,736,000
Durham	2,060,000
Ealing	1,278,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	295,000
East Sussex	699,000
Enfield	975,000
Essex	9,279,000
Gateshead	809,000
Gloucestershire	4,348,000
Greenwich	275,000
Hackney	179,000
Halton	209,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	0
Hampshire	2,522,000
Haringey	601,000
Harrow	814,000
Hartlepool	152,000
Havering	115,000
Herefordshire	398,000
Hertfordshire	6,121,000
Hillingdon	344,000
Hounslow	340,000

Local authority name	Budgeted net expenditure on education out of school (£)
Isle of Wight	143,000
Isles of Scilly	26,000
Islington	173,000
Kensington and Chelsea	172,000
Kent	3,959,000
Kingston upon Hull, City of	352,000
Kingston upon Thames	230,000
Kirklees	876,000
Knowsley	115,000
Lambeth	0
Lancashire	591,000
Leeds	1,849,000
Leicester	664,000
Leicestershire	658,000
Lewisham	898,000
Lincolnshire	634,000
Liverpool	1,000
Luton	936,000
Manchester	764,000
Medway	640,000
Merton	189,000
Middlesbrough	532,000
Milton Keynes	799,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	15,000
Newham	431,000
Norfolk	955,000
North East Lincolnshire	203,000
North Lincolnshire	459,000
North Somerset	445,000
North Tyneside	129,000
North Yorkshire	2,134,000
Northamptonshire	856,000
Northumberland	2,144,000
Nottingham	1,423,000
Nottinghamshire	772,000
Oldham	353,000
Oxfordshire	310,000
Peterborough	685,000
Plymouth	174,000
Poole	206,000
Portsmouth	418,000
Reading	612,000
Redbridge	792,000
Redcar and Cleveland	1,241,000
Richmond upon Thames	121,000
Rochdale	342,000
Rotherham	427,000
Rutland	50,000
Salford	490,000
Sandwell	614,000
Sefton	528,000
Sheffield	1,486,000
Shropshire	422,000
Slough	117,000
Solihull	493,000
Somerset	1,382,000
South Gloucestershire	403,000
South Tyneside	40,000
Southampton	51,000
Southend-on-Sea	247,000
Southwark	1,276,000
St. Helens	163,000
Staffordshire	2,021,000
Stockport	190,000
Stockton-on-Tees	215,000
Stoke-on-Trent	737,000
Suffolk	3,788,000
Sunderland	482,000
Surrey	2,504,000
Sutton	685,000
Swindon	819,000
Tameside	250,000
Telford and Wrekin	354,000
Thurrock	66,000
Torbay	1,140,000
Tower Hamlets	651,000
Trafford	495,000
Wakefield	142,000
Walsall	582,000
Waltham Forest	802,000
Wandsworth	475,000
Warrington	92,000
Warwickshire	701,000
West Berkshire	174,000
West Sussex	4,019,000
Westminster	1,309,000
Wigan	830,000
Wiltshire	397,000
Windsor and Maidenhead	107,000
Wirral	121,000
Wokingham	11,000
Wolverhampton	43,000
Worcestershire	334,000
York	389,000

Note:
Education otherwise than at school and PRU: alternative provision is suitable education arranged by local authorities for children of compulsory school age who are unable to attend mainstream or special schools because of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise.

Nurseries: Playgrounds

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average outdoor space *(a)* maintained and *(b)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries had as part of their premises in each year for which records are available. [205090]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected by the Department or Ofsted.

Primary Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children who achieved level 3 or above in key stage 2 *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science attended maintained daycare nurseries before entering primary school in the most recent period for which figures are available. [205087]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupil Exclusions: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils who were permanently excluded had special educational needs in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) age. [205078]

Kevin Brennan: The available information is shown in the table. Full information on exclusions broken down by age, gender and special education need of the excluded pupil can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by special educational needs (SEN). England, 1997/98 to 2005/06 (estimates)[3]

	Permanent exclusions		
	Number of exclusions	*Percentage of permanent exclusions[4]*	*Percentage of school population[5]*
1997/98			
Pupils with statements of SEN	2,250	18	0.96
Pupils without statements of SEN	10,050	82	0.14
All pupils	12,300	100	0.16
1998/99			
Pupils with statements of SEN	1,920	18	0.78
Pupils without statements of SEN	8,510	82	0.11
All pupils	10,430	100	0.13
1999/2000			
Pupils with statements of SEN	1,490	18	0.61
Pupils without statements of SEN	6,830	82	0.09
All pupils	8,320	100	0.11
2000/01[1]			
Pupils with statements of SEN	810	9	0.33
Pupils without statements of SEN[6]	8,330	91	0.11
All pupils	9,140	100	0.12
2001/02[1]			
Pupils with statements of SEN	1,140	12	0.48
Pupils without statements of SEN[6]	8,400	88	0.11
Of which:			
SEN pupils without statements	4,700	49	0.35
Pupils with no SEN	3,700	39	0.06
All pupils	9,540	100	0.12
2002/03[1]			
Pupils with statements of SEN	1,030	11	0.43
Pupils without statements of SEN[6]	8,260	89	0.11
Of which:			
SEN pupils without statements	5,140	55	0.46
Pupils with no SEN	3,120	34	0.05
All pupils	9,290	100	0.12
2003/04[1]			
Pupils with statements of SEN	1,040	11	0.44
Pupils without statements of SEN[6]	8,840	89	0.12
Of which:			
SEN pupils without statments	5,240	53	0.46
Pupils with no SEN	3,600	36	0.06
All pupils	9,880	100	0.13
2004/05[1]			
Pupils with statements of SEN	850	9	0.37
Pupils without statements of SEN[6]	8,590	91	0.12
Of which:			
SEN pupils without statements	4,620	49	0.40

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by special educational needs (SEN). England, 1997/98 to 2005/06 (estimates)[3]

	Permanent exclusions		
	Number of exclusions	*Percentage of permanent exclusions[4]*	*Percentage of school population[5]*
Pupils with no SEN	3,970	42	0.06
All pupils[7]	9,440	100	0.12
2005/06			
Pupils with statements of SEN	880	10	0.39
Pupils without statements of SEN[6]	8,280	90	0.11
Of which:			
SEN pupils without statements	5,280	58	0.43
Pupils with no SEN	3,000	33	0.05
All pupils[8]	9,170	100	0.12

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data. See [4].
[4] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number of permanent exclusions.
[5] The number of excluded pupils by SEN stage expressed as a percentage of all pupils with the same SEN stage in primary, secondary and all special schools (excludes dually registered pupils) in January.
[6] The introduction of the new SEN Code of Practice means that the number of children with SEN without statements reported in 2000/01 and later are not directly comparable with earlier years. Includes pupils with no SEN and pupils with SEN without statements See [6].
[7] There was one permanent exclusion for which stage of SEN was not known—this was included in total for 'all pupils' only.
[8] There were 17 permanent exclusion for which stage of SEN was not known—these were included in total for 'all pupils' only.

Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Pupils: Offensive Weapons

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in England were found to be in the possession of *(a)* a weapon and *(b)* drugs on school premises in each of the last three years. [204378]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Runaway Children: Protection

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department allocated to initiatives to ensure the safety of child runaways in each of the last three years. [204469]

Kevin Brennan: The lead responsibility for responding to the needs of young people who have run away from home/care, including funding local initiatives if appropriate, lies with local authorities under their broader responsibilities to safeguard vulnerable young people. The Department does not routinely fund local provision, but has made funding (totalling £410,500 in 2006/07 and 2007/08) available to the London Refuge, following on from the community-based refuge pilots, to support the Refuge while they develop alternative sustainable funding sources.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of all children and young people, including those who run away from home or care, is important to this Government. In 2002, £2 million was committed over three years to pilot community based refuges for young runaways, with a subsequent evaluation of these pilots. In 2006/07, £31,000 was given to The Children's Society to support their research on how effectively local authorities were responding to the needs of young runaways.

Following The Children's Society report "Stepping Up" (August 2007) a cross- departmental working group on young runaways was established, supported by a consultative group made up of experts from the voluntary sector, to drive improvements in services for young runaways. An action plan, to be published in June, will set out ongoing actions to improve services at local, regional and national level.

Schools: Admissions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fully subscribed schools in England *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received capital funding from their local authority for expansion (i) between 1997 and 2006, (ii) between 2006 and January 2008 and (iii) since January 2008. [201590]

Jim Knight: The Department is continuing to support huge capital investment in schools. Over CSR07 this will total £21.9 billion. This is invested through a combination of our strategic, targeted and devolved programmes to local authorities and schools. Investment priorities take account of a number of factors, including the need to expand schools—which is subject to the local decision making process. Accordingly, the Department does not collect information centrally on the number of applications to local authorities for capital funding to support school expansions.

Available data show that (i) between 1999 (the first year for which information is available) and 2006, there were 20 approved proposals from schools to enlarge and increase the admission number by 27 or more, 16 approved proposals to enlarge sixth forms, and 444 smaller expansions; (ii) between 2006 and January 2008 the figures were 22, 36, and 102; and (iii) since January 2008, the figures are nine, four, and eight. We do not have figures on which of these schools were over-subscribed, or which involved a capital cost.

Additionally, since 2004 the Department has also operated a funding mechanism whereby successful and popular schools can, with or without the support of their local authority, apply for funding toward to the cost of expanding by a form of entry. Provided they meet the criteria set out in guidance, capital support will follow provided the expansion is agreed through the local decision making process. 22 such expansions have been agreed, and additional bids are currently being considered.

Schools: Cricket

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in England play cricket at least once a week in the summer term; [205153]

(2) how many maintained schools in England have at least 10 competitive cricket fixtures each summer term; [205154]

(3) how much the Youth Sport Trust spent on cricket in schools in each of the last three years; and what those funds were spent on. [205155]

Kevin Brennan: This information is not held centrally. The 2006/07 School Sport Survey found that 90 per cent. (up from 85 per cent. in 2003/04) of maintained schools in England provided cricket during the academic year. The survey also found that 56 per cent. (up from 45 per cent. in 2003/04) of schools were linked to a local cricket club.

Inter-school competition will be further enhanced by the national network of Competition Managers, which will be in place from January 2009.

As a registered charity, the work of the Youth Sport Trust is to help build a better future for young people through sport. They are working with the network of school sport partnerships and sports colleges across the country to ensure all young people have access to at least five hours of PE and school sport by 2012. Their remit is not to fund individual sports, so they have not spent any money directly on cricket, or any other individual sport.

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 238W, on sixth form education: finance, on what date he plans to publish the KPMG report on the funding gap between school sixth forms and further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [203907]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Statement of Priorities, published in November 2007, stated that introducing a standard common 16-18 funding system for schools, colleges and providers will help us to narrow further the funding gap between school sixth forms and colleges. The KPMG independent research report on the 16-18 FE/School Sixth Form Funding Gap is available on the LSC's website from 8 May 2008. That report highlights the progress made in closing the gap from more than 14 per cent. in 2004/05 by 8 per cent. points in 2008/09. The LSC will be contacting external stakeholders by e-mail advising of the publication of the report and also giving the website link.

Sure Start Programme: Internet

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 707W, on Sure Start programme: internet, what proportion of expenditure on updating the Sure Start website was attributable to staff salaries in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and how many staff are employed to update the website. [204781]

Kevin Brennan: A contracted editorial resource was used, at the cost of £55,375 for 2006-07 and £63,305 for 2007-08, to provide editorial services and to update the Sure Start website. None of these costs were attributable to civil service staff salaries, however there are civil service salary costs for the project management of the Sure Start website. The proportion of time spent by two civil servants managing the Sure Start website equates to no more than £22,535 for 2006-07 and the same for 2007-08.

Truancy: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in secondary education in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* other areas in Lancashire were classed as persistent truants in the most recent period for which figures are available. [204982]

Kevin Brennan: The available information relates to persistent absentees (pupils who are absent for more than 20 per cent. of possible sessions of attendance) and is given in the table.

State funded secondary schools [1,2]: pupil absence 2006/07

	Number of enrolments [3]	*Percentage of persistent absentees [4]*
Lancashire local authority area	70,503	6.9
Parliamentary constituencies in the Lancashire area:		
Chorley	7,293	5.8
Burnley	5,709	11.9
Fylde	4,626	5.9
Hyndburn	5,294	7.9
Lancaster and Wyre	7,427	4.2
Morecambe and Lunesdale	4,274	8.9
Pendle	5,298	8.9
Preston	3,639	10.5
Ribble Valley	8,204	4.6
South Ribble	7,669	4.4
West Lancashire	5,919	6.3
Rossendale and Darwen	6,762	7.2
Blackpool, North and Fleetwood	5,293	11.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, academies and city technology colleges.
[3] Number of enrolments in schools between from start of the school year until 25 May 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).
[4] A persistent absentee is defined as missing more than 63 sessions in the year—typically, missing more than 20 per cent. of the school year.

Source:
School Census

TREASURY

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency uses its automated valuation model to value newly built homes for council tax purposes. [202561]

Jane Kennedy: No. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1669W.

EU Economic Policy: Zimbabwe

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the compliance by Northern Rock Bank and its subsidiaries with the requirements of EU Regulation 898/2005, as amended, on financial sanctions against members of the Zimbabwean government; [204998]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Board of Northern Rock Bank on the compliance of the bank and its subsidiaries with the requirements of EU financial sanctions against Zimbabwe. [204999]

Kitty Ussher: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from Government on commercial principles.

We expect any bank subject to UK law to comply with all relevant rules and regulations.

Gas and Electricity Markets Authority: Consolidated Fund

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out the amounts transferred by Ofgem to the Consolidated Fund under section 1 of the Civil List Act 1952 for each of the years 2005-2008; and if he will make a statement. [204070]

Angela Eagle: Ofgem transfers amounts to the Consolidated Fund in respect of the Fossil Fuel Levy. The following amounts were surrendered to the Consolidated Fund for calendar years 2005-08:

	£ million
2005	150
2006	160
2007	150
2008 (to date)	65

Insurance

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of demographic trends on the future of the insurance industry. [204189]

Kitty Ussher: It is for the insurance industry to consider future demographic trends when designing products and developing business models.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) was established by the Government in 2001 to act as the UK's independent financial regulator. As part of its supervision of insurance firms, the FSA takes a risk-based approach to discussing demographic considerations with insurers, for example when assessing the robustness of an insurer's approach to risk management. The FSA requires insurers to sign off their annual returns through auditors and actuaries. This would typically involve an assessment of the impact of demographic trends.

International Monetary Fund

John Bercow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on reform of the International Monetary Fund. [204296]

Kitty Ussher: The Government have been heavily engaged with stakeholders in formulating their agenda for the reform of the International Monetary Fund, which the Chancellor then set out at the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee last month. The Government recognise that solutions to global problems, such as the financial turbulence of the past year, require greater international cooperation, and has therefore been working to build international support for reforms that will deliver a more effective and legitimate International Monetary Fund.

Smuggling: Fuels

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs staff in Northern Ireland have visited premises which were suspected to be centres for the distribution and sale of fuel either illegally produced or on which the appropriate duty had not been paid in the last 12 months. [204755]

Angela Eagle: HMRC has a regular programme of visits to retail fuel sites and fuel distribution centres. These include visits to both suspect locations and to non-suspect locations. During year ending 31 March they made 284 such visits in Northern Ireland. Some locations were visited on more than one occasion.

It would not be appropriate to disclose the number of visits to suspect locations as this could indicate the extent of intelligence held by HMRC.

This reply covers visits made by HMRC Detection staff only. It does not include any visits made by Direct Taxes, Indirect taxes or any other HMRC staff.

Tax Yields

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in levels of revenue which would accrue if all non-personal tax relief was allowed at the standard rate only. [205163]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the revenue impact of changing the rates at which all non-personal tax reliefs are allowed under the relevant tax regimes to the standard rate of income tax are not available. Latest estimated costs of tax expenditures and structural reliefs are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm

Unfair Practices: Sales Methods

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department has spent *(a)* to raise public awareness of and *(b)* on consumer protection measures relating to fraud associated with illegal share sales boiler room operations in the last 12 months; [204155]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of cases of fraud involving illegal share sales boiler room operations in 2007. [204156]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* The Treasury does not undertake consumer protection activity or raise awareness of boiler room frauds directly. The Financial Services Authority has a specific statutory objective to protect consumers, which includes advising and protecting investors against boiler room frauds.

Expenditure on the prevention of boiler room fraud cannot be disaggregated from other crime prevention or awareness raising work by the agencies concerned, such as the Home Office, Financial Services Authority or City of London Police.

However, the FSA are able to estimate that the budget for enforcement staff working on unauthorised businesses (of which boiler rooms account for 60 per cent.) numbers 20 staff. They estimate that this will equate to around £20,000 hours at a cost of £650,000 for 2008.

The FSA have in the last 12 months taken part in a total of 11 broadcast media appearances on the issue, including a number of radio interviews and TV appearances on programmes such as the Money Programme and the BBC News at 1. The Police have likewise been working with the media, for example targeting publications that cater to the most at risk groups.

In the last 12 months, the FSA have also opened 250 boiler room inquiries, and the names of 215 boiler room firms have been added to their unauthorised firms list, an average of 18 per month. No estimate of cases of fraud involving boiler room operations in 2007 is available. However, the Office of Fair Trading published a report in December 2006 entitled 'Research on impact of mass marketed seams', which did assess the number of victims of high-risk investment scams more widely. The number of victims of boiler room fraud specifically could not be disaggregated from this total.

VAT: Fuels

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of *(a)* suspending and *(b)* reducing value added tax on domestic fuel to assist low income households with heating costs. [204311]

Jane Kennedy: Supplies of fuel and power for domestic use already benefit from a reduced rate of VAT of 5 per cent. This is the lowest rate available under our VAT agreements with our European partners.

Welfare Tax Credits: Scotland

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Scotland are eligible for *(a)* working tax credits, *(b)* child tax credits and *(c)* pension credits; and what recent estimate he has made of the level of uptake of each credit. [204384]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the take-up rate for child and working tax credits in 2005-06, for which latest figures are available, by country and region, are produced in Table 9 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates 2005-06". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm.

We do not produce statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Estimates of eligibility and the take-up rate for pension credit are not available below the level of Great Britain. However, latest estimates of take-up rates and the number of pensioners who were entitled to but not claiming pension credit in Great Britain were published in the "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005/06" report. A copy of this report is available in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 May 2008

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Opinion Polls

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House what polling companies held contracts with her Office in 2007-08; and what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services each provided. [204691]

Helen Goodman: None.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Allen: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members used the allowance for European travel *(a)* once, *(b)* twice and *(b)* three times in 2007-08. [204594]

Helen Goodman: During financial year 2007-08, 153 hon. Members claimed for European travel: 107 for one return journey, 36 for two and 10 for three.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006: Prosecutions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions have been brought under the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 since the law was implemented. [205334]

The Solicitor-General: The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 came into force on 1 October 2007 and to date there have been no prosecutions under the legislation.

TRANSPORT

A14: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on *(a)* maintenance on and *(b)* improvements to the A14 in each year since 1997; and what the equivalent projected expenditure for (i) 2009, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2011, (iv) 2012 and (v) 2013 is. [204020]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested cannot easily be provided for the whole A14 other than at a disproportionate cost.

A14: Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the volume of traffic between each pair of adjacent junctions on the A14 in each year since 1997; and what projections have been made for *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011, *(d)* 2012 and *(e)* 2013. [204021]

Mr. Tom Harris: Predictive data for the A14 are not held in the format requested.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 33W, on public transport: concessions, what account was taken of representations relating to those affected by mental health disabilities in determining the eligibility criteria for concessionary bus travel under the Transport Act 2000. [204017]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department receives a large number of representations from interest groups during the development of any policy, and due regard is given to each before proposals are finalised. The eligibility criteria contained in the Transport Act 2000 was subject to debate during the passage of that Bill. Also, the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) was consulted on Government amendments which, among other things, clarified the various categories of disability included on the face of the Bill.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions she visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204388]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the last 12 months, Ministers in this Department have visited Scotland on seven occasions and Wales twice in their official capacities. No visits have been made to Northern Ireland during this period. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in her Department and its predecessors since 1997. [204763]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the period from the creation of the Department for Transport in May 2002 until 31 March 2008 approximately 834 general statutory instruments and 9,512 local statutory instruments were made in the name of the Secretary of State for Transport.

The number of statutory instruments made by Ministers of predecessor Departments, and of statutory instruments revoked, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions she has visited Essex in the last 12 months. [204975]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the last 12 months, Ministers in this Department have visited Essex on three occasions in their official capacities. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Fuels

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to encourage motorists to use greener fuels since 1997. [204547]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The main way that the Government have encouraged the use of alternative fuels since 1997 is through differentials in fuel duty between petrol and diesel and other fuels. There are also incentives through reduced rates of Vehicle Excise Duty for cars that run on certain alternative fuels and registered after 1 March 2001. Vehicles powered wholly by electric power are exempt from VED.

The Government fund the running of an Infrastructure grant programme. The grants assist the building of refuelling stations for alternative fuels (natural gas/biogas, hydrogen and bio-ethanol). It is also funding research and development into battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles through a Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform, which brings together funding from the Department for Transport, Technology Strategy Board and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Previously low carbon vehicle research and development funding was provided through the Energy Saving Trust.

The Government have also introduced the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). The RTFO, which came into effect from 15 April 2008 aims to ensure that sustainable biofuels make up an increasing percentage of total UK road transport fuels, and means that biofuels are starting to become available in low blends at the majority of forecourts in the UK.

The Government previously provided grants through the Powershift and Clean Up programmes to encourage the purchase of low carbon vehicles. However it was clear that the funding levels available would not bring about the required market transformation so the funds were diverted to other environmental transport initiatives.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times her Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205147]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since May 2006, the Department for Transport has hired VIP facilities at the aforementioned airports on one occasion. This occurred at Heathrow in July 2006 where the Department met a delegation of senior officials and a Transport Minister from outside the UK. The cost of hiring the facilities was £269.62.

M69: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the roadworks taking place on the M69 to be completed and all carriageways re-opened to traffic. [204743]

Mr. Tom Harris: The resurfacing work on the M69 is due to be completed and all carriageways re-opened by the end of the second week in May.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the roadworks taking place on the M69 were carried out concurrently to the roadworks taking place on the M1 motorway near junction 26; and if she will make a statement. [204744]

Mr. Tom Harris: The work currently being undertaken on the M1 near Junction 26 is part of an ongoing major widening scheme; the M69 work is a shorter scale resurfacing scheme. To minimise disruption to road users, the Highways Agency's policy is to ensure, where possible, that concurrent roadworks are not carried out within 10 km of each other. The M1 and M69 schemes comply with that policy, being more than 50 kms apart.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1066-7W, on roads: accidents, how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were killed in car accidents in East Lancashire where at least one driver involved was aged 21 or under and (i) male and (ii) female in each year since 2000. [205544]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of *(a)* male and *(b)* female car occupant fatalities in reported road accidents where the driver was (i) male and (ii) female and aged 21 years or under in East Lancashire in 2000 to 2006 are shown in the table.

Number of fatalities

	0-21 year old male car driver		*0-21 year old female car driver*	
	Male fatality	*Female fatality*	*Male fatality*	*Female fatality*
2000	2	1	0	0
2001	7	0	0	0
2002	4	1	0	0
2003	2	0	0	0
2004	3	0	0	0
2005	3	1	0	1
2006	1	0	0	0

Note:
East Lancashire = Hyndburn, Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale, Ribble Valley and Blackburn with Darwen.

Shipping: Fees and Charges

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's policy is on the proposal from Norway and Denmark for a charge and fund scheme for international shipping. [204969]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I assume the hon. Member is referring to the proposal from Denmark for a global levy on marine bunker fuel. The Government support the aims and intentions behind the proposal.

The Government are clear that, as shipping volumes continue to grow, the industry must take its share of responsibility for tackling the problem of climate change. We also believe it is vital to investigate all options for reducing emissions from international shipping, including improved technology, better operator practices and market-based measures.

The Government therefore welcome the opportunity to debate the proposal at the forthcoming International Maritime Organization Marine Environment Protection Committee working group on greenhouse gas emissions in Oslo in June, together with the wide range of other ideas on the table.

Trains

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the 1,300 extra railway carriages referred to in the high-level output statement published in 2007 have been *(a)* ordered from manufacturers, *(b)* delivered and *(c)* brought into use. [204480]

Mr. Tom Harris: There have been 317 vehicles ordered from manufacturers. The first of these units is due for delivery in October 2008.

Transport Appraisal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on the methodology integral to the New Approach to Transport Appraisal. [205160]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* The Government have recently consulted on a number of matters relating to the New Approach To Appraisal with the document 'The NATA Refresh: Reviewing the New Approach to Appraisal'. The consultation period closed on 31 March 2008 and officials are now reviewing the 101 responses received ahead of the Department's response.

West Coast Railway Line

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she expects the West Coast Main Line timetable due to be implemented in December 2008 to be implemented on time. [205335]

Mr. Tom Harris: The current expectation of Network Rail is that the modernisation will be completed in December as scheduled. The Office of Rail Regulation has undertaken a review of the delivery plan of Network Rail and found it to be robust.

Some issues remain to be resolved between Network Rail and passenger and freight train operators in relation to the timings and detail of the possessions needed for the works to take place.

WALES

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204708]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp

The final measurement against the targets will be published in autumn 2008.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204711]

David Cairns: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the civil service website at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp.

The final measurement against the targets will be published in autumn 2008. The annual report of the Scotland Office will shortly be published and this will provide information on diversity.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205177]

David Cairns: Nothing.

Devolution

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps the Calman Commission has taken to *(a)* publicise its work outside Scotland, *(b)* obtain evidence from people resident outside Scotland and *(c)* obtain evidence on (i) the impact Scottish devolution has had on the rest of the United Kingdom and (ii) on the effect that further devolution of powers would have on the rest of the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [205366]

David Cairns: The remit of the Commission on Scottish Devolution was made known in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland's written ministerial statement of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8WS.

It will consult as widely as possible and listen to all voices in Scotland and the rest of the UK. Its work will be published on its website:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk

throughout the review process.

OLYMPICS

Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on how many occasions she has visited Essex in the last 12 months. [204976]

Tessa Jowell: I have visited Essex once in an official capacity since my appointment as Minister for the Olympics.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crimes of Violence: Children

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many violent crimes where a child under five years was a victim resulted in a conviction in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [204664]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested. Northern Ireland conviction data do not include victim information in relation to the commission of an offence and violent crimes against children under five years do not constitute separate offences by legislation.

It is only possible to give the number of convictions for those violent offences, which in their definition, refer to a child or children. The data provided in the following table cover the calendar years 2002 to 2006 (the latest available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of convictions for violent offences against a child by offence 2002-06[1]

Offence	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Common assault on child or young person	2	0	1	1	2
Aggravated assault on male child	15	3	11	7	5
Cruelty to person under 16 years	8	12	8	10	3
Causing or procuring cruelty to children	0	0	0	0	1
Total	25	15	20	18	11

[1] Data do not include sexual offences against a child or children.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what quantity of illegal drugs was discovered in each of Northern Ireland's prison and detention centres in each of the last three years. [204754]

Paul Goggins: The following tables record the quantity and type of illegal drugs discovered in the last three years. (A breakdown for each establishment is only available for the last year.)

By establishment—March 2007 to February 2008

	Maghaberry	*Magilligan*	*Hydebank Wood*	*Total*
Cannabis (Grams)	387.3	140.1	99.1	626.5
Steroid Tablets	4	49	27	80
LSD	0	0	0	0
Heroin tablets	19.5	6	0	25.5
Heroin (Grams)	2.3	6	0	8.3
Cocaine (Grams)	1	0	0	1
Ecstasy Tablets	15	100	6	121
Unknown tablets	688.5	506	31	1225.5
Diazepam	1202	100	6	1308
Temazepam tablets	1	0	60	61
Amphetamine (Grams)	0	15.7	21	36.7
Amphetamine tablets	12	0	0	12
Unknown Powder (Grams)	3.4	2.3	0.5	6.2

Type and quantity of illegal drugs found in NIPS establishments from March 2005 to February 2007

	March-February	
	2005-06	*2006-07*
Unidentified Tablets	435.5	1607
Cannabis (Grams)	813.2	417.2
Amphetamine Tablets	185	185
Amphetamine Powder (Grams)	10.6	10.6
Diazepam Tablets	140	353
Heroin Powder	20.3	2.4
Heroin Tablets	15.5	5
Temazepam Tablets	63.5	27
Ecstasy Tablets	0	5
LSD (Grams)	12.7	12.7
LSD Tablets	41.5	41.5
Steroid Tablets	384	484
Steroid Vials	3	8
Cocaine (Grams)	4	5.1
Unknown Powder	0	0

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will publish the schedule for the implementation of the proposals in the McMaster Review of the Arts. [203880]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1729W.

It is our intention to publish an overview of how all interested parties have worked, and will continue to work together to deliver the review's recommendations before the summer.

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of Arts Council England's *(a)* total income, *(b)* grant-in-aid income

and *(c)* National Lottery income was provided to organisations in the form of (i) grants and (ii) regular funding in each of the last five years. [203737]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* This information has been provided by Arts Council England and is set out in the tables. Figures for 2007-08 are the forecast outturn.

(a) Total income allocated in the form of (i) grants and (ii) regular funding

	Total income (£000)	*Grant in aid grants and Lottery grants as a percentage of total income (£000)*	*Grant in aid to regularly funded organisations as a percentage of total income (£000)*
2007-08	559,160	27.9 (156,431)	58.3 (326,053)
2006-07	576,245	34.9 (201,405)	54.6 (314,916)
2005-06	581,253	44.2 (257,120)	52.6 (306,209)
2004-05	539,054	42 (226,608)	51 8 (279,373)
2003-04	486,667	39.1 (190,321)	52.3 (254,906)

b) Grant in aid income allocated In the form of (i) grants and (ii) regular funding

	Grant in aid income (£000)	*Grant in aid grants as a percentage of grant in aid income (£000)*	*Grant in aid to regularly funded organisations as a percentage of grant in aid income (£000)*
2007-08	422,610	12.6 (53,107)	77.1 (326,053)
2006-07	426,531	14.1 (59,945)	73.8 (314,916)
2005-06	408,678	11.3 (46,192)	74.9 (306,209)
2004-05	368,859	9.6 (36,717)	75.7 (279,373)
2003-04	324,955	6.8 (22,133)	78.4 (254,906)

(c) National Lottery income allocated in the form of (i) grants and (ii) regular funding

	Lottery income (£000)	*Lottery grants as a percentage of Lottery income (£000)*	*Lottery grants for regularly funded organisations as a percentage of Lottery income (£000)*
2007-08	136,550	75.7 (103,324)	0
2006-07	149,714	94.5 (141,460)	0
2005-06	172,575	122.2 (210,928)	0
2004-05	170,195	111.6 (189,891)	0
2003-04	161,712	104 (168,188)	0

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments VisitBritain made to Connect Public Affairs in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202284]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain has provided the following information about the dates, amounts and purpose of payments made by them to Connect Public Affairs during the last five years:

Date	*Purpose/Service*	*Net amount (£)*
monthly since November 2006	Political monitoring - daily email plus weekly summary of the week ahead and special reports e.g. on the Budget	850
monthly since November 2006	Office expenses, including phone, photocopying, @ 6.75 per cent. of professional fees	57.38

Internet: Direct Mail

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of spam on the internet. [200677]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The Information Commissioner's Office has responsibility for enforcing the regulations that control unsolicited e-mails (spam) and considers complaints about breaches. A breach of an enforcement notice is a criminal offence that can attract a maximum fine of up to £5,000.

Spam is a global problem and one which, it is estimated, accounts for over 80 per cent. of all internet traffic[1]. Much spam originates outside the UK. For that reason, the steps we can take in the UK to reduce its incidence are limited.

However, my Department has frequent discussions with internet service providers (ISPs) on improving filters and other mechanisms to prevent mischievous traffic reaching their customers, and making end users more aware of the tools available to them to counter spam. Many ISPs have specific spam mail boxes where individuals can report and complain about specific e-mails, as well as offering filtering software which can be used to prevent spam being received.

[1] *Source:*

Symantech—The State of Spam—April 2008.

Internet: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what percentage of homes in rural Suffolk have access to *(a)* dial-up internet connections, *(b)* broadband connections and *(c)* high-speed broadband connections; [201496]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of households in Suffolk without access to the internet, broken down by income band. [201494]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Theatres: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effect of Arts Council England's regional theatre policy on theatres in Kent. [195143]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England is responsible for assessing the impact of its policies on individual art forms.

Arts Council England does recognise the potential effect of its investment strategy on theatre in Kent. The Arts Council is committed to making the highest quality arts available to the widest possible audience throughout Kent and is currently exploring a number of ideas on how best to build theatre activity in the area.

Arts Council England will continue to support organisations such as the New Marlowe in Canterbury, Margate Theatre Royal, Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury, and the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells through a number of schemes including Grants for the Arts, the Arts Councils scheme for funding one off projects to individuals and organisations.

Visual Arts: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on art storage in each of the last five years. [204149]

Margaret Hodge: Between 70 per cent. to 75 per cent. of the Government Art Collection's works of art are out on display at any one time. The remaining works available for selection are held at the GAC's premises. A small number of works of art are too large to be housed at the GAC and are in commercial storage. There is an active programme of taking these large works of art out of storage and placing them on display in suitable buildings.

The Government Art Collection spent the following on storage charges in the last five years.

	£
2003-04	7,266.87
2004-05	9,348.28
2005-06	8,507.00
2006-07	10,005.13
2007-08	10,407.55

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mr. Oaten: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what proportion of chicken served in the House of Commons estate was produced under the RSPCA's Freedom Food scheme in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if the Commission will make it its policy to provide such figures annually. [205255]

Nick Harvey: Since January 2008, the House of Commons Catering Service has secured a supply of chicken produced under the RSPCA's Freedom Food scheme, and this now accounts for almost 40 per cent. of the Department's purchases of fresh chicken meat. The quality, reliability and relative affordability of this supply has enabled the Department to move forward from a position in 2007 when less than 10 per cent. of chicken supplied for the House of Commons restaurants met higher welfare standards consistent with those developed by the RSPCA.

Subject to availability and affordability constraints, the Catering Service aspires to further increase the proportion of higher welfare chicken purchased, and met with representatives of Freedom Food earlier this month to discuss how this might be achieved.

The Commission does not publish detailed food procurement statistics, but the director of Catering and Retail Services will be happy to provide periodic details about the proportion of chicken sourced from RSPCA Freedom Food approved sources. The director has suggested that this could be published as part of a regular update on food provenance issues that is being developed for the Catering and Retail Services intranet pages.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what proportion of meat produce served in the House of Commons was Freedom Food-approved in the most recent period for which figures are available. [205256]

Nick Harvey: All fresh meat served in the House of Commons is sourced from producers that demonstrate high levels of animal welfare under an accredited farm assurance scheme such as the 'Red Tractor' scheme, which encompasses 'Assured British Pigs' and 'Assured British Meat'. All pork is free range.

Other than chicken, no meat currently served in the House of Commons restaurants is accredited under the RSPCA's Freedom Foods scheme. However, the director of Catering and Retail Services met with Freedom Food representatives earlier this month to discuss the supply of pork, beef and lamb and to identify ways of working together to establish a supply chain.

Drinking Water

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent per day on bottled water on the parliamentary estate in the most recent period for which figures are available. [201264]

Nick Harvey: Daily expenditure on bottled water is not recorded across the parliamentary estate. Annual expenditure by the House of Commons for 2007-08 and an approximate daily cost based on the number of working days in 2007-08 are as follows:

	£
Total cost of purchases for 2007-08	29,866
Approximate daily cost	118.35

In addition, the total cost of bottled water purchased by Catering and Retail Services for sale to customers during the same period was £32,979.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Authority: Finance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Authority funding for 2008-09. [204358]

John Healey: The consultation period on the 2008-09 and provisional 2009-10 and 2010-11 local government finance settlements ran between 6 December 2007 and 8 January 2008.

During this consultation period, we received three representations from Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Authority.

The representations contained points on the population data used in the settlements, transitional funding and the overall financial settlement.

Construction: Fraud

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the cost to local authorities of collusion, bid rigging or cover pricing by the construction sector in the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [204506]

John Healey: The OFT is currently carrying out an investigation into such allegations in construction in both the public and private sectors. No specific estimate has been made for the cost to local authorities.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households are liable for council tax and are not exempt or in receipt of 100 per cent. council tax benefit. [204517]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 541W.

Data for Wales are available on the Welsh Assembly Government website.

Council Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list each type of local council tax discount introduced by billing authorities under the Local Government Act 2003 in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [204507]

John Healey: Details of the types of local council tax discount that were being awarded by billing authorities under the Local Government Act 2003 as at 8 October 2007, the latest date for which figures are available, are listed as follows. At this date, 37 authorities reported they were making local council tax discounts to either individuals or a particular class of taxpayer. The discounts shown may have been awarded by one or more authority.

Particular classes of taxpayer or property:

Pensioners;

Properties affected by flooding;

Various classes of empty properties;

Single occupiers who are called up for 28 days or more as members of the reserve forces;

Those to whom, because they have been affected by the change in regulations since a discount was originally awarded, a discount has been awarded so as to not disadvantage them;

Properties that are no one person's sole or main residence where access is restricted;

Occupied and unoccupied furnished properties that do not have the benefit of mains services including beach chalets;

Difficult to let properties;

Taxpayers who can comply with the council's Mooring Policy.

Other discretionary discounts based on individual cases:

Property affected by the proximity of a electricity generating wind turbine;

Hard to sell property;

Problems with a chalk mine;

Property damaged by fire;

RAF personnel where redundancy was delayed owing to events abroad;

New unfinished property;

Hardship.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessors spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [204106]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government spent £2,730 to offset 275 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from its ministerial and official air travel in 2006-07. These figures do not include data from the Department's Executive agencies or the regional Government offices.

This was the first year that the Department offset any emissions. Data are being gathered to offset emissions from air travel undertaken during 2007-08.

The Department currently only offsets emissions from is air travel and does this through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF).

The GCOF is being managed by EEA Fund Management Ltd., who won the contract to source and deliver 255,000 Certified Emission Reduction Credits, with a provision for a further 50,000 credits, over three years from a range of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. Credits will be supplied from the project portfolio of Trading Emissions plc, to whom EEA is the investment adviser.

Departmental Computer Software

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many copies of Adobe Acrobat, excluding Adobe Reader software, are licensed to her Department. [203058]

Mr. Dhanda: There are 79 copies of Adobe Acrobat licensed for use within the Department.

Flood Control: Buckingham

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions her Department has had with the Environment Agency on the Buckingham Flood Alleviation Scheme. [204360]

John Healey: My Department has not held any recent meetings with the Environment Agency to discuss the Scheme. However, there may have been discussions held at a regional level on the Buckingham Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Floods: Costs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the cost to the *(a)* public purse, *(b)* local community and *(c)* local economy of the flooding in Buckingham of 21 July 2007. [204359]

John Healey: We do not hold information about the total costs to specific local areas of the county. Nor do we hold figures for the financial impact on local economies which is also difficult to quantify. However, the South East Regional Development Agency has reported that 110 businesses were affected across the South East. Only one business in Buckingham applied to the RDA for grant aid and as a result received a payment of £1,382.04.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Appeals

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision for appeals against decisions made by the Infrastructure Planning Commission she plans to put in place; and what role the Planning Inspectorate will play in such procedures. [204182]

John Healey: Under the proposals in the Planning Bill, decisions made by the Infrastructure Planning Commission will be challengeable through a claim for judicial review rather than through an appeal mechanism.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Pollution

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Infrastructure Planning Commission considers *(a)* air quality and *(b)* noise pollution factors in determining major infrastructure planning applications. [204185]

John Healey: Under the proposals in the Planning Bill, when determining major infrastructure applications, the Infrastructure Planning Commission will be required to have regard to the relevant National Policy Statement, other matters which may be set out in secondary legislation and any other matters which the Commission thinks are important and relevant to its decision.

National Policy Statements will be subject to an appraisal of sustainability and will take into account other government policies, including policies on air quality and noise impacts, where they are relevant. The Infrastructure Planning Commission will also have to ensure that relevant provisions of European Community environmental law are complied with, including those covering air quality and noise pollution.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Public Appointments

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she plans to announce the names of members of the Infrastructure Planning Commission; [204183]

(2) when she expects the Infrastructure Planning Commission to commence operation. [204184]

John Healey: Subject to gaining parliamentary approval for the necessary primary legislation, we expect the first appointments to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) to be made in spring 2009 with the IPC ready to advice applicants later the same year. We expect the IPC to begin determining applications in 2010 and we will be consulting with potential applicants about the appropriate length of time between national policy statements, regulations and guidance being issued and the new regime coming into effect.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she will give to expertise in *(a)* air quality and *(b)* noise pollution in planning decisions relating to road or aviation infrastructure when making appointments to the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [204187]

John Healey: The White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" stated that commissioners would be appointed from a wide range of fields such as national and local government, community engagement, planning, law, engineering, economics, business, security, environment, heritage and health, as well as, if necessary, specialist technical expertise related to a particular sector.

Leisure: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the hon. Member for Warrington North was not *(a)* notified of or *(b)* invited to her briefing on the Orford Park Project. [205257]

Mr. Dhanda: I understand that Warrington borough council made a request to meet the Regional Minister for the North West in the margins of a conference she was attending, in order to brief her on the Orford Park Project. This meeting was arranged on the afternoon of Wednesday 7 May.

In accordance with paragraph 10.9 of the ministerial code, the hon. Member was notified about, and invited to the event on Thursday the 8 May, via the Private Office of the Regional Minister for the North West.

Local Authorities: Culture

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the production of local cultural strategies; and whether such strategies are submitted to her Department. [200298]

Mr. Dhanda: Councils are no longer required to produce or submit free-standing local cultural strategies. Instead they are expected to subsume planning for the longer-term cultural priorities for their area within their broader Sustainable Community Strategy. This approach is in line with a wider process of devolving greater freedoms to councils—in part by reducing the number of statutory plans they were required to produce.

Guidance on how best to achieve this expectation was issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in June 2004 entitled "Leading the good life: guidance on integrating cultural and community strategies".

Guidance on Sustainable Community Strategies was first issued in 2000. This has since been updated in draft form as part of a broader package of guidance also covering, for example, Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements. This guidance, entitled "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities", was issued in draft on 30 November 2007. Following a public consultation on this guidance which closed on 12 February we will be issuing the final guidance this summer. This guidance states that

> 'The purpose of a Sustainable Community Strategy is to set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of a local area'

(see paragraph 3.1). Sustainable Community Strategies continue to be required to be produced by local councils but are not submitted to the Government.

Local Government Finance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on local authorities' equity to debt ratios; and what guidance her Department provides to local authorities on appropriate levels for those ratios. [204641]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government collects data on the amount and nature of local authority borrowing, lending and investments to varying levels. Analyses of these data are published. The Department is also currently collecting data that could be used to calculate local authority equity (the difference between their assets and liabilities) as part of the Whole of Government Accounts exercise, but this exercise is still in its experimental phase.

By statute local authorities' debt is secured on their revenues and not their assets. The Department does not therefore provide guidance on equity to debt ratios for local authorities. We have, however, given statutory backing to the Prudential Code issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy on the affordability of borrowing by local authorities, and to the Institute's code of practice on treasury management as it applies to local authorities.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1275W, on regional planning and development, if she will place in the Library a copy of each development plan independent examination report published by a planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to date since the coming into force of the 2004 Act. [202482]

Mr. Iain Wright: A copy of each of the 68 reports provided on completed development plan document examinations will be deposited in the Library of the House.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ensure that her proposed changes to the South East plan are published before 25 June 2008. [203192]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government intends to publish her Proposed Changes to Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East before the summer recess.

I am sure the hon. Lady will understand that because of the nature of the work under way and the importance of the matters under consideration it would not be wise to commit, as she requests, to a more definitive timeframe.

Tenants: Deposits

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department plans to take to increase awareness of the tenancy deposit protection scheme among *(a)* tenants and *(b)* landlords. [205364]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department was involved in an extensive publicity campaign in the run-up to the launch and immediately after the scheme's introduction. We will continue to encourage the three tenancy deposit protection scheme providers to promote awareness of the requirements to landlords. We also encourage consumer organisations, such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau and Shelter, to help increase tenants' awareness.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of landlords of assured short hold tenancy property to which tenancy deposit protection applies have registered with the tenancy protection schemes established under contracts let by her Department. [205365]

Mr. Iain Wright: Over one million deposits for tenants with assured shorthold tenancies have been protected since tenancy deposit protection provisions commenced

in April 2007. We do not hold a breakdown of the number or percentage of landlords this represents.

Valuation Office: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the Valuation Office Agency's Local Authority Liaison Group met in the last 36 months. [204496]

John Healey: The Local Authority Liaison Group has met eight times in the last 36 months.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities routinely submit CR10 reports to the Valuation Office Agency. [204497]

John Healey: In the three years to 2007-08 CR10 reports have been registered for all billing authorities.

Valuation Office: Publications

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the Valuation Office Agency's Billing Authority Newsletter from the last 36 months. [204495]

John Healey: The Valuation Office does not produce a central newsletter for Billing Authorities.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites in *(a)* Castle Point constituency and *(b)* constituencies adjacent to Castle Point monitor air quality. [204697]

Jonathan Shaw: The are no national air quality monitoring sites within Castle Point constituency, although we are aware of the local authority monitoring site at Furtherwick Park School on Canvey Island. This is in the London Air Quality Monitoring Network, and is managed by King's College London.

There are two national air quality monitoring sites in constituencies close to Castle Point. These are at Chalkwell Park in Southend-on-Sea, and at Abbott's Hall Close in Stanford-le-Hope.

Further information on the national air quality monitoring networks can be found on the National Air Quality Information Archive at:

www.airquality.co.uk

Angling: Licensing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 280-81W, on angling: licensing, what steps the Environment Agency is taking to improve disabled and senior anglers access to angling; and if he will make a statement. [204091]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* In 2007-08, £393,000 of Environment Agency funding was provided to 37 projects involving improved access. Together with partner contributions of £665,000 this resulted in a total spend of £1.058 million.

The Environment Agency collaborated with the British Disabled Angling Association to produce comprehensive "Access Guidelines for Fisheries" on how to improve access for disabled anglers. This provides a reference point for all fishery owners on the design and issues of improving access for all.

In 2008-09, subject to achieving licence sales targets, an additional £300,000 has been allocated to improving access, giving a projected spend of £600,000. The new work includes a joint programme with representatives of Disabled Angling groups of over 100 projects to identify where access can be improved for disabled anglers in particular. There will be additional access improvements projects delivered on the ground with fishery owners.

Since 2006, the Environment Agency has produced free Angling Guides in paper and internet format. This provides information on the location of publicly accessible fisheries and whether these cater for disabled anglers.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 280-81W, on angling: licensing, what proportion of the monies raised by higher duty rates will be used to improve access to angling for disabled and senior anglers. [204092]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* The Environment Agency spends £2 million each year on fisheries improvement projects, of which £300,000 is nominally allocated to improve access.

The forecast increased income arising from the concessionary change will be around £600,000. Subject to licence sales targets being achieved and suitable fisheries owners coming forward to work with them, it is anticipated that up to £300,000 (50 per cent.) of this extra income will be used in 2008-09 to undertake new work. This will provide a total spend of £600,000 on access improvement by the Environment Agency and its partners.

Biofuels: Research

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value was of grants made by his Department for research into biofuels since 1 January 2006; and to which organisations they were given. [204990]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's bio-energy R and D focuses on the genetic improvement and selection of biomass crops such as willow and miscanthus. Current spend is about £900,000 per year, which provides underpinning R and D for both second generation biofuels and solid biomass for energy. Other relevant work is being funded jointly with industry to breed wheat and oilseed rape varieties that require reduced fertiliser inputs (£331,000 in 2008-09 and approximately £814,000 in 2006-07 and 2007-08 combined).

It is difficult to separate out the work exclusively on biofuels, but a specific project was funded in 2007 to assess 'Greenhouse gas emissions and environmental sustainability of international biofuels production and use' (£37,000).

Organisations funded by DEFRA since 2006 are Aberystwyth university (IBERS), Rothamsted Research, AEA Technology, the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB), Warwick HRI and ADAS.

DEFRA, through the International Sustainable Development Fund, are also funding two (desk) studies into Brazilian biofuels and their sustainability. One is by the university of Campinas, into bioethanol, and the other is by the university of Sao Paulo, into biodiesel. They are around £50,000 each.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will decide his policy on whether to cull badgers to combat bovine tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [204659]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no timetable for a decision on this issue. There is a great deal of complex evidence to consider and the matter is receiving our attention.

Coastal Areas: Rights of Way

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact that an extension of coastal access will have on *(a)* rural business owners and *(b)* landowners. [204896]

Jonathan Shaw: An Impact Assessment of proposals to improve access to the English coast has been carried out. It was published along with the draft Marine Bill on 3 April 2008 and is available on DEFRA's website.

Departmental Retirement

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much is planned to be spent on his Department's voluntary retirement scheme in each of the first three years of its existence. [194800]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* This Department's 2007-08 voluntary early departure scheme is not a multi-annual scheme but was open for applications between September 2007 and January 2008 with provision set aside in this financial year for any payments to retirees, consequent on their departure under this scheme, which might fall in future years. It immediately followed a previous voluntary early departure scheme which ran from December 2006 to July 2007.

It is estimated that during financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 this Department will have spent £14.8 million and £49 million, respectively, on the funding of voluntary early departures under either scheme. There are currently no plans to launch further voluntary early departure schemes.

The forecast core DEFRA paybill savings for the CSR07 period due to early departures via the two schemes of VER/S are:

	£ million
2007-08	10
2008-09	17.2
2009-10	17.8
2010-11	18.5

For the Rural Payments Agency the estimated costs during the financial year 2006-07 was a credit of £0.074 million, this was due to a reduction in the provision for exit costs as a result of some staff from 2005-06 withdrawing from their arrangements. In 2007-08 the estimated cost is £1.062 million.

Dredging: North Sea

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on the East Coast of dredging for aggregates in the North Sea, with particular reference to the impact on coastal sea defences; and whether aggregates obtained from dredging of riverbeds and main watercourses are used by the construction industry. [204586]

Jonathan Shaw: Marine minerals dredging in English waters is carefully controlled through the Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007. All marine mineral dredging applications are required to assess the physical effects of the proposed dredging operation and its implications for coastal erosion by way of a Coastal Impact Study (CIS). A permission to dredge will only be issued if the regulator (the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) on behalf of the Secretary of State), their advisors, consultees and major stakeholders are content that the proposed dredging is environmentally acceptable. In making this judgment the precautionary principle is always adopted and should the CIS show a potential to contribute to coastal erosion a permission would not be issued.

Modelling and field studies on the impact of both individual offshore dredging licences and of the cumulative impacts of such licences have concluded that UK offshore dredging has not contributed to coastal erosion. There may be a potential impact on the coastline in relation to estuary and near-shore dredging for navigation purposes. However, in these cases, there is a clear need to balance economic and social imperatives of continued port operations with any environmental impact.

Disposal of navigational dredgings in tidal waters is licensed under the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) 1985. Before any licence can be issued for disposal, consideration must be made as to whether alternate waste management options are possible, including re-use. FEPA licences are not normally granted where practicable alternative means of recovery or disposal exist. We are working with the industry to secure ways to ensure the arisings of

appropriate dredging spoil are more closely linked to suitable construction projects where re-use would not entail excessive costs.

There have been a number of examples where materials that are to be dredged for navigational reasons have been diverted to alternative use, including for construction, land reclamation and for landscape bunding etc. For example, the Port of Southampton disposed of, for commercial use, a significant quantity of sand dredged from their navigational channels and the proposed London Gateway port development envisages using some 25 million tonnes of dredged materials for land-raising/ landscaping works. It is not uncommon for port authorities to make available suitable dredged materials for use in maintaining beaches and inter-tidal areas. Harwich Haven Authority has previously entered into various agreements with local coast defence authorities to re-use suitable sand for beach replenishment.

DEFRA continues to fund research into alternative uses of dredged material to improve understanding of how these can be used and, with its Marine and Fisheries Agency which regulates disposal of marine dredgings, are engaged with the Central Dredging Association (CEDA) to promote and increase beneficial use of materials.

Energy Supply: Carbon Emissions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings he has had with energy suppliers on the carbon dioxide emissions reduction target. [204298]

Mr. Woolas: I attended a meeting at No. 11 Downing street with energy suppliers, ministerial colleagues and advisors on 24 April where among other issues, CERT was discussed.

Energy: EU Law

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable has been set for the implementation of Lot 1 of the Energy-using Products Directive. [205442]

Joan Ruddock: The Commission has not yet set a formal timetable for bringing forward the implementing measure on Lot 1 of the Energy-using Products Directive, but has indicated that it expects the measure to go to the Regulatory Committee for a vote towards the end of 2008 or beginning of 2009.

Environment Agency: Consultants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments the Environment Agency made to Zennor Consulting Ltd in each of the last three years; and on what date and for what purpose each such payment was made. [204532]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows transactions paid by the Environment Agency to Zennor Consulting Ltd in the 2006-07 financial year. It has no recorded transactions with Zennor Consulting Ltd in either 2005-06 or 2007-08.

Order date	*Description*	*£*
28 February 2007	Preparation and delivery of workshops on Territorial Co-operation project development	2,719.39
30 October 2006	INTERREG project management training workshop	1,056.00
28 July 2006	Preparation and delivery of keynote speech and workshop facilitation for Cycleau conference	2,449.87
23 May 2006	Cost for audit preparation training for four people as part of the Improving Coastal and Recreational Waters Project	886.20
Total	—	7,111.46

Environment Protection: Dogger Bank

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will propose the Dogger Bank as an offshore special area of conservation under the EU Habitats Directive; and if he will make a statement. [204639]

Jonathan Shaw: Dogger Bank has been identified as a draft Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive Annex III Stage 1 selection criteria. Draft SACs are areas that have been formally advised to the UK Government as suitable for selection as SACs, but have not been formally approved by the Government as sites for public consultation.

Further information in support of the recommendation for Dogger Bank is currently being gathered. Only after the necessary evidence has been collected can a recommendation be made.

EU Solidarity Fund

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to receive the £120 million allocated to the UK by the EU Solidarity Fund. [203826]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are in the process of finalising the arrangements for the receipt of the funding and we expect to receive this shortly.

The UK applied to the EU Solidarity Fund last August, and it was confirmed by the European Parliament in April that €162.4 million (£110 million) would be provided to the UK to help meet the costs of recovering from the summer 2007 floods.

Flood Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on flood defence schemes announced for construction in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [204669]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* I have asked the chief executive of the Environment Agency to write with this information.

Pollution Control: EC Action

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs of pollution prevention and control permits in other EU member states for benchmarking purposes; and if he will make a statement. [204524]

Mr. Woolas: My Department does not hold any information of the costs of pollution prevention and control (PPC) permits in other EU member states. Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (codified version) is silent on the subject of member states charging for PPC permits. Some member states may not charge for IPPC permit applications, but may recover varying proportions of their costs from the regulated industry, while others bear the cost in general taxation. This is a political decision for each national Government. The differing practices which are in place make it difficult to make comparisons of the costs of PPC permits across the EU. In England and Wales regulators are required, in accordance with HMT guidance and the 'Polluter Pays Principle', to recover the costs of regulation from those they regulate.

Rights of Way

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many wardens as defined by section 18 of the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 have been appointed in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each local authority area since 2001. [204893]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not centrally held and could be gathered only at a disproportionate cost.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1371-2W, which *(a)* special areas of conservation with marine components and *(b)* special protection areas with marine components in UK inshore waters listed on the Joint Nature Conservation Council website are not included on the European Commission's equivalent lists; and for what reasons in each case. [204477]

Jonathan Shaw: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) together form a network of Natura 2000 sites to protect habitats and species of European importance. SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) and SPAs are designated under the EC Wild Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds).

Sites in the UK that meet the qualifying criteria under the relevant directive are identified by the Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) and are recommended to the Government for submission to the EC for adoption as SACs or SPAs respectively. The lists of Marine SACs and SPAs which appear on the JNCC website therefore correspond with those held on the EC's equivalent lists.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department and its agencies have commissioned, funded or utilised on the social impact of charging for the collection of household waste. [204484]

Joan Ruddock: The final report to DEFRA by Eunomia Consulting entitled "Modelling the Impact of Household Charging for Waste in England" reviewed a range of research including on the social impacts of charging for the collection of household waste.

The Government's Impact Assessment for powers to pilot local authority incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling also drew on a range of research on amounts of waste produced by households of different sizes, and income data for households of different sizes.

Waste Management

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many individuals have been issued with fixed penalty notices for breaching *(a)* no side and *(b)* closed lid waste collection policies since such notices were introduced. [204490]

Joan Ruddock: Powers for local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices for offences relating to waste receptacles were introduced in April 2006. In 2006-07 local authorities in England issued 988 fixed penalty notices for offences of this nature. Data for 2007-08 will be available later this year. DEFRA does not collect information that would enable a breakdown of these figures to identify the numbers of fixed penalty notices issued specifically for breaches of side waste or closed lid collection policies.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what initial assessment he has made of the effects of site waste management plans on waste management practices. [204654]

Joan Ruddock: Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) were first introduced as a voluntary code of practice in July 2004. The latest assessment of their effects was produced by DEFRA by the Building Research Establishment. This was published on the Construction Waste page of DEFRA's website in February 2008.

New regulations became effective on 6 April 2008 and make SWMPs mandatory for construction projects exceeding a £300,000 project cost. An assessment of their effects will be made within three years of this date.

Whales: Iceland

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions the Prime Minister had with the Prime Minister of Iceland on 24 April on the resumption of commercial whaling by Iceland; and if he will make a statement. [204852]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* I did not attend the meeting on 24 April. However, at this meeting my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister reiterated

the UK's strong opposition to whaling. The Prime Minister of Iceland was left in no doubt as to the strength of feeling in the UK on the issue.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

BAE Systems

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with legal representatives of BAE Systems since 10 April 2008. [203903]

Malcolm Wicks: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor his ministerial team have met with BAE Systems lawyers.

Berkeley Power Station

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration he has given to options for future uses of the former Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories site, Gloucestershire; and which organisations have been commissioned by his Department to undertake evaluation of those options. [201299]

Malcolm Wicks: I understand the question to refer to the Berkeley Centre, which is a de-licensed part of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Berkeley site. The NDA have appointed King Sturge to market the Berkeley Centre site.

Construction: Cartels

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform under what legislation construction industry cartels are prohibited; what prosecutions have been undertaken in cases where legal proceedings have been completed against *(a)* individuals and *(b)* companies for acting as a cartel in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [203543]

Mr. Thomas: Cartels are prohibited under the Competition Act 1998 and the Enterprise Act 2002 allows for prosecutions against individuals involved in cases acting in a cartel. There have been no prosecutions of individuals in the last five years, however three individuals have recently been charged and are awaiting a court hearing in respect of a cartel involving marine hoses and ancillary equipment. As the criminal cartel offence applies only to individuals, no company has been prosecuted. However, 13 decisions in civil proceedings have been made against 166 companies in relation to breaches of the Chapter 1 prohibition of the Competition Act 1998 (anti-competitive agreements) since 2003.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on offering rewards to members of the public for information about alleged illegal cartels in the construction industry; what legislation governs this; how many calls the cartels hotline has received; and how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions resulted from information provided in such calls in each year since the hotline's inception. [203544]

Mr. Thomas: On 29 February 2008, the OFT announced a policy under which it will pay financial rewards of up to £100,000 in return for information which helps it to identify and take action against illegal cartels. Rewards will be paid only where information is accurate, verifiable and proves to be useful in the OFT's anti-cartel enforcement work. Any reward is calculated according to a set formula and not subject to negotiation. This policy will run for an initial period of 18 months, after which a decision will be made whether this should be a permanent arrangement. This is an extra-statutory policy and applies to all industries, including but not limited to the construction industry. The OFT announcement can be found a the following web link:

www.oft.gov.uk/news/press/2008/31-08

The OFT has recorded 227 calls on its cartel hotline since 2001. To date none of these calls have resulted in a prosecution or conviction, although the material of some calls is the subject of on going investigations.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many construction firms were *(a)* investigated and *(b)* prosecuted for (i) bid rigging and (ii) cover pricing in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [203560]

Mr. Thomas: 31 roofing contractors were investigated and fined by the OFT for bid rigging, which also included the practice of cover pricing. A further 112 construction firms are the subject of a current OFT investigation into bid rigging including the practice of cover pricing. No infringement decisions or fines have yet been issued as each firm under investigation has recently been issued with a Statement of Objection which sets out the OFT's formal allegations and evidence. Each firm has been given the opportunity to respond to the Statement.

The OFT received evidence of cover pricing implicating many more companies on thousands of tender processes, but has focused its investigation on approximately 240 alleged infringements which are being pursued in the Statement of Objections. The OFT has used objective selection criteria in order to focus the investigation, based on evidence received up to the point when it closed the door to further leniency applications, including the number of times a company was discovered allegedly to have infringed the Competition Act 1998.

Construction: Contracts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what legislation regulates competitive tendering in the construction industry; what changes have been made to it since enactment; and if he will make a statement. [203562]

Mr. Thomas: There is no legislation which specifically regulates competitive tendering in the construction industry. Construction is covered by generic procurement and competition legislation. In terms of procurement, construction is regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (Statutory Instrument 2006 No 5) which implements the EU public procurement directive. A further set of rules (Utilities Contracts Regulations

2006—SI 2006 No 6) applies to relevant operators (both public and private) in the utilities sector when they wish to procure works or services. For projects above certain financial thresholds, these set out procedures to be followed in setting out specifications, selection of candidates and the award of the contract. They are intended to enforce the EC treaty principles of transparency and free movement of goods and services.

Construction: Fines

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on which occasions the Office of Fair Trading imposed penalties on construction companies in each of the last five years; what penalty was imposed; on which company each was imposed; for what reasons each was imposed; to what purpose the fines received have been put; and if he will make a statement. [203561]

Mr. Thomas: 31 roofing contractors have been fined in respect of bid rigging, in breach of Chapter 1 of the Competition Act 1998. The following table shows those companies concerned and the specific level of fine imposed. The level of fines imposed include any reduction for leniency, in accordance with the OFT's penalties guidance whereby reductions, or in certain circumstances complete immunity from fines are available in return for significant cooperation with the OFT's investigation. Total fines imposed amounted to £2,555,547 and were paid into the Consolidated Fund for use by HM Treasury to their own policy objectives.

Party	*Total fine (£)*
Advanced Roofing Systems Ltd	1,963
Anglo Asphalt Company Ltd	2,005
Apex Asphalt and Paving Co. Ltd	35,922
Asphaltic Contracts Ltd	22,255
Bonnington Contracts	45,187
Briggs Cladding and Roofing Ltd	nil
Brindley Asphalt Ltd	55,540
Cambridge Asphalte Company Ltd	53,774
Coverite Ltd	104,498
Dufell Roofing Company Ltd	74,642
Durable Contracts Ltd	47,221
Geo. Brolley and Co. (Roofing) Ltd	22,239
Hogdson and Allon Ltd	74,151
Holme Asphalt	6,453
Howard Evans (Roofing) Ltd	35,510
Kelsey Roofing Industries Ltd	47,700
Lenaghen Roofing Services Ltd	19,245
McKay Roofing Ltd	27,219
Makers UK Ltd	526,500
Mitrepoint Ltd	262,000
Pirie (inc. Pirie Ltd, Pirie Group Ltd and Pirie and Co (Paisley) Ltd)	54,727
Prater Ltd	270,432
Redbrook Mastic Asphalt and Felt Roofing Ltd	17,802
Richard W Price (Roofing Contractors) Ltd	9,000
Rio Asphalt and Paving Co. Ltd	54,135
Rock Asphalte	511,351
Single Ply Roofing Systems Ltd	12,554
Solihull Roofing and Building Co Ltd	26,606
The General Asphalte Company Ltd	63,192
W G Walker and Company (Ayr) Ltd	59,185

Consumer Direct: Finance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budgeted operating cost for Consumer Direct will be in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [203912]

Mr. Thomas: The budget has not been set. The OFT works on a year-by-year basis and the figure for 2009-10 will not be determined until later this financial year.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which his Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203731]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* The Cabinet Office publication Public bodies 2007 lists the number of people serving on the boards of public bodies as at 31 March 2007. These figures are broken down by individual Departments. The figure for the Department is 864. Public bodies 2007 can be downloaded from www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp. Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199055]

Mr. Thomas: Departmental targets relating to the employment of people with disabilities, to be achieved by April 2008, are as follows:

Progress towards numerical targets

				1 April 2008		*10 point plan target*		*BERR target*	
	10 point plan target (%)	*BERR target (%)*	*Number minority staff*	*Number of staff at Band*	*Current %age*	*Number of staff required to meet target*	*Difference*	*Number of staff required to meet target*	*Difference*
SCS Disabled	3.2	4.7	8	176	5	6	+2 (exceeded)	8	0 (exceeded percentage)
Band C disabled	None set	None set	59	1,014	6	—	—	—	—

10 Point Plan for a Diverse Civil Service, published in November 2005, set a target that 3.2 per cent. of Senior Civil Service (SCS) posts are to be filled by disabled people by April 2008. Final measurements of achievement against this target will be available by October 2008.

The Department is in the process of agreeing a Diversity Strategy for the period April 2008 to March 2011. An appropriate target for the representation of people with disabilities is currently under consideration.

13 per cent. of staff responding to the November 2007 Staff Opinion Survey reported that they had a disability or long term health condition.

Energy Supply

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with National Grid on the supply of electricity in the UK during summer months. [204290]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR officials met National Grid on 9 April 2008 to discuss its Summer Outlook Report 2008, which covers the supply of electricity during the summer months.

The Summer Outlook Report was launched on 15 April 2008 and can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx@docid=1&refer=Markets/WhlMkts/CustandIndustry/Outlook.

Energy: Housing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to assist low income households with the rising costs of fuel for heating. [204523]

Malcolm Wicks: We are concerned about the impact of higher prices on vulnerable people and we continue to encourage energy suppliers to adopt initiatives to restrict price rises for the most vulnerable.

In Budget 2008, the Government said they would like to see the amount energy suppliers spend on social programmes increase to at least £150 million a year over the period ahead. A new voluntary agreement has recently been signed individually with the six major energy suppliers to treble their individual investment on social programmes in the next three years, reaching collective investment of £150 million by 2010-11. This will take spend to £100 million in 2008-09, £125 million in 2009-10 and £150 million in 2010-11.

In addition, winter fuel payments helped keep 11.7 million people warm in winter 2006-07 and Budget 2008 announced an additional one-off payment of £100 to over-80s households and £50 to over-60s households in 2008-09.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* funded on the interoperability of communication platforms for the introduction of smart meters; [201890]

(2) what discussions he has had with suppliers of *(a)* energy and *(b)* water smart meters to co-ordinate their provision of services to households. [201893]

Malcolm Wicks: My Department's draft Impact Assessment recognises the role that providing smart metering to gas and electricity customers could play in facilitating wider policy goals, including water conservation. The scope for providing additional services, including water metering, is among the issues we shall explore as we refine our Impact Assessment with interested parties over the coming months. Last year, my Department commissioned economic analysis of a range of issues associated with smart metering, including interoperability and telecommunications. This analysis, by Mott MacDonald, has now been published, and has also informed our Impact Assessment. We will undertake more analysis over the coming months.

In the meantime, powers have been included in the Energy Bill to enable the Secretary of State to modify relevant gas and electricity licences to require the provision and installation, or facilitate the provision and installation of, smart meters. These powers will enable a roll out of advanced meters to medium sized businesses in the first instance (as announced in 2008 Budget). Subject to further ongoing analysis these powers would enable us to move forward with a roll out to small businesses and domestic consumers when we have the information to make these decisions.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association, *(b)* energy suppliers, *(c)* housing developers and *(d)* major energy users on the introduction of smart meters. [201891]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has held discussions with a range of interested parties over about smart meters. The Office of Government Commerce has been in discussion with local authorities as part of its work to promote the provision of advanced metering in public buildings operated by both central and local government. The Government's consultation on metering and billing was open to all groups, including large energy users. The largest energy users will, however, already use half-hourly electricity, or daily-read gas, meters. Over 200,000 larger sites below these categories will receive advanced meters under the proposals that were confirmed in the Budget 2008.

In the meantime, powers have been included in the Energy Bill to enable the Secretary of State to modify relevant gas and electricity licences to require the provision and installation, or facilitate the provision and installation of, smart meters. These powers will enable a roll out of advanced meters to medium sized businesses in the first instance (as announced in 2008 Budget). Subject to further ongoing analysis these powers would enable us to move forward with a roll out to small businesses and domestic consumers when we have the information to make these decisions.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to his oral statement of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 333, if he will place in the Library a copy of

the study undertaken on behalf of his Department by Mott MacDonald on the costs and benefits of smart metering. [204024]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* A copy of the report by Mott MacDonald, "Appraisal Costs and Benefits of Smart Meter Roll Out Options", has been placed in the Library. The report is also available on the BERR website at:

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file45997.pdf

Energy: Skilled Workers

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the UK has enough skilled people to work in the *(a)* nuclear waste industries and *(b)* the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. [202514]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 874W.

Fuels: Prices

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of *(a)* the average household fuel bill and *(b)* the average household fuel bill as a proportion of household income in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by region. [204554]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* Estimates for this response are based on data collected through the Expenditure and Food Survey. The average household fuel bill and average disposable income are available in the Family Spending 2007 publication, available online at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_social/Family_Spending_200607/FamilySpending2007_web.pdf

This shows detailed household expenditure by UK countries and Government office regions in 2006 and the following has been derived from table A37 and A44.

Government office region	*Average annual fuel bill (£)*	*Annual fuel bill as a percentage of disposable income*
United Kingdom	826.30	3.0
North East	750.60	3.5
North West	814.30	3.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	810.30	3.3
East Midlands	775.80	3.0
West Midlands	827.50	3.3
East	847.90	3.1
London	751.70	2.2
South East	830.10	2.6
South West	803.50	3.0
England	805.00	2.9
Wales	868.20	3.7
Scotland	895.80	3.4
Northern Ireland	1,211.10	4.9

Furniture: Standards

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many incidents of sales of dangerous and substandard furniture have been investigated by the Scambuster pilots since 2006. [201985]

Mr. Thomas: The Scambuster pilots have investigated two incidents of alleged dangerous or substandard furniture. 161 pieces of furniture were seized as a result of investigations although those tested complied with the Furniture and Furnishing (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1998. A further sample of cushions failed the Regulations.

Internet: Data Protection

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit the re-publication without the subject's permission of images of persons posted on social networking sites; and if he will make a statement. [199411]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The use of computerised personal information in the United Kingdom is regulated by the Data Protection Act 1998. The Information Commissioner who administers and enforces the Act independently of the Government. The Act does not prohibit the dissemination of personal data to third parties, including via the internet, but it regulates the circumstances in which this can take place through a code of enforceable good practice principles. Among other things, they require personal data to be processed fairly and lawfully, obtained only for specified and lawful purposes, and not further processed incompatibly with those purposes.

Any directly affected person may ask the Information Commissioner to assess whether it is likely or unlikely that any processing of personal data has been or is being earned out in compliance with the Act. If the Commissioner concludes that any of the Act's principles are being breached, it is open to him to take enforcement action against the organisation concerned.

Manufactured Goods: Production

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the report by the Office for National Statistics into the volume of output in the UK's production industries in the first quarter of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [202912]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* According to the ONS, seasonally adjusted production sector output fell by 0.1 per cent. in the first quarter of 2008 compared to the last quarter of 2007. Manufacturing sector output grew 0.5 per cent. in 2008 Q1—up on the previous quarter's growth in the sector, and the highest quarterly volume of manufacturing output since the first quarter of 2001—but this was offset by falls on the quarter in mining and quarrying output, and electricity, gas and water supply output. However, the figures for 2008 Q1 are preliminary estimates, subject to revision as more information becomes available.

Total production output was 0.7 per cent. higher in the first quarter of 2008 compared to the corresponding quarter in the previous year. Within the total production sector, both manufacturing and electricity, gas and water output increased in the year to the first quarter of 2008, by 1.2 per cent. and 1.7 per cent. respectively, while mining and quarrying output fell by 5.1 per cent. over the same period.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 19 March 2008, on online privacy. [202392]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member. A reply will be issued shortly.

Mobile Phones

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has received from mobile network operators on mobile number portability. [201835]

Malcolm Wicks: All the mobile phone network operators meet with BERR officials and Ministers on a regular basis to discuss all types of mobile phone related issues. I am aware that some operators are not comfortable with the arrangements concerning mobile number portability, clearly these matters are commercially sensitive and we are not able to comment on company specific policy.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of whether UKPorting will meet the September 2009 deadline set by Ofcom to ensure that the time taken to move a telephone number between mobile telephone operators is reduced to two hours. [201836]

Malcolm Wicks: At present we have not made our own assessment on whether the deadline set by Ofcom to ensure that the time taken to move a telephone number between mobile telephone operators is reduced to two hours will be met. Pending an ongoing Competition Appeals Tribunal investigation into this issue on 18 June 2008, it would be inappropriate to provide any comment until after that appeal has been heard.

Motor Vehicles: Fuels

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of ultracapacitors as a power source for road vehicles. [204117]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has made no assessment of the effectiveness of ultracapacitors as a power source for road vehicles. However, a pre-competitive research project on development of super capacitors as a means of energy storage for hybrid vehicles, entitled 'SuperC', was funded as part of the Foresight Vehicle programme, and concluded in 2002. Details of the project can be found on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rmd/project.asp?intProjectID-7978.

It is now for project partners to seek commercial applications for any resulting technologies.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1078W, on nuclear power, from which elements and components the 10 per cent. discount rate is derived; and what value is assigned to each. [204595]

Malcolm Wicks: The choice of a 10 per cent. discount rate was based on its use in a number of studies of costs across nuclear and other electricity generation technologies by the International Energy Agency and other organisations. The rate has not been disaggregated in any way into component parts. Sensitivity analysis was, however, carried out to observe the impact of using both higher and lower discount rates.

Office of Fair Trading

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation governs the powers of the Office of Fair Trading; what changes have been made to each since their entry into force; and if he will make a statement. [203542]

Mr. Thomas: The primary legislation that governs the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) powers in relation to competition law and enforcement are:

(i) The Competition Act 1998 ("the Act"). The OFT is responsible for enforcing the prohibitions contained in the Act which outlaw anti-competitive agreements and abuses of a dominant position within a market. The Act also empowers the OFT to obtain information, enter premises to conduct investigations, make interim and final decisions and impose financial penalties.

(ii) The Enterprise Act 2002 provides the OFT with powers in relation to the regulatory control of mergers, market investigations and to the enforcement of the cartel offence and certain consumer legislation.

Further powers given to the OFT under secondary legislation are:

(i) Competition Act 1998 (Office of Fair Trading Rules) Order 2004 which outlines the procedural rules followed by OFT in carrying out investigations under the Competition Act 1998.

(ii) EC Regulation 1/2003, which came into force May 2004, gives the OFT the power to enforce the prohibitions against anti-competitive agreements and abuses of a dominant position which may affect trade between EU member states. This regulation is about the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the treaty of Rome.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189688]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is as follows

FTE staff employed in the BERR and UKTI press offices

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
BERR[1]	20	17	24	25	23	23	23	19	18	17	16
UK Trade and Investment[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	3-4	3	2-3	2-4

[1] The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) was created in July 2007. Figures before July 2007 refer to the number of press officers in the Department for Trade and Industry.
[2] UKTI was formed in October 2003. Fluctuations in the above staff numbers are due to staff movements during the year.

FTE staff employed in BERR NDPB press offices

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
ACAS[1]	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Atomic Energy Authority[2]	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Civil Nuclear Police Authority[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1.5	1.5
Coal Authority[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Competition Commission	1	1	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	2	2	2
Competition Service[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
EnergyWatch[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	7	7	7	4.5	4	4
Hearing Aid Council[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
National Consumer Council	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority[8]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PostWatch[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	4	4	4	4	4	n/a
SITPRO Ltd[10]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] Since 1996/1997 ACAS has employed two permanent communications professionals to carry out its media and marketing activity. Neither is a full-time press officer, but both combine press duties as part of their overall role. This includes operating an out-of-hours service for the media. The press office staff at ACAS also carry out other communications responsibilities besides press office work.
[2] The UK Atomic Energy Authority does not employ dedicated press officers. Five members of staff in the UKAEA have media relations as part, but not all, of their duties. The FTE equivalent is provided as an estimate of the proportion of UKAEA communications team members' time available to cover press officer functions.
[3] The Civil Nuclear Constabulary was set up as a separate entity in 2005.
[4] The Coal Authority does not have a press office.
[5] The Competition Service does not have a press office.
[6] EnergyWatch, was set up in 2001.
[7] The Hearing Aid Council does not have a press office.
[8] The National Decommissioning Authority does not have a press office. Three communications managers are employed to undertake a variety of activities of which handling media enquiries is one element. A head of communications and communications director may also handle media inquiries.
[9] PostWatch was set up in 2001.
[10] SITPRO Ltd employs only one member of staff for marketing and promotion, whose responsibilities include some dealings with the press.

FTE staff employed in RDA press offices

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
AWM[1]	n/a	1	1	3	4	4	4	4
EEDA	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3
EMDA	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
LDA[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	3	5.5	6	6
NWDA[3]	2	4	5	6	6	9	7	6
ONE	n/a	3	3	3	4	3	5	6
SEEDA[4]	1	1	2	2.5	5	5	5.5	5.5
SWRDA	n/a	n/a	3	3	4	5	5	5.5
YF	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4

[1] AWM payroll information for 1999-2000 is in archive and it is not possible to determine the number of FTE staff fulfilling the press office function for that year.
[2] LDA was not set up until 2000-01. Payroll information for 1999-2000 is in archive and it is not possible to determine the number of FTE staff fulfilling the press office function for that year.
[3] NWDA figures reflect the total number of staff who carried out a press office function as part of their duties during the financial year (they did not carry out these duties for the full financial year in all cases, or all at the same time).
[4] SEEDA does not employ dedicated press officers. This function is carried out as part of the duties of the SEEDA communications team. The FTE equivalent is provided as an estimate of the proportion of SEEDA communications team members' time available to cover press officer functions.

Renewable Energy: Standards

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether targets for renewable energy usage for the United Kingdom take account of regional variations. [203812]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* The European Commission's proposed target of 15 per cent. renewable energy in the UK by 2020 does not specify where in the UK renewables should be located. The Government will consult over the summer on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet the UK's share of the target.

Sales Methods: Unfair Practices

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plans to take to tackle unfair sales practices. [203735]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, which come into force on 26 May, prohibit traders in all sectors from engaging in unfair marketing and selling practices with consumers. In particular, the regulations prohibit misleading and aggressive practices and ban 31 specific practices outright. The regulations will put in place a more comprehensive framework for tackling sharp practices and rogue traders harming consumers' economic interests.

Seychelles

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department and its predecessor visited the Seychelles on official business in 2007, broken down by grade; and what the equivalent number was in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987 and *(c)* each year between 1998 and 2005. [205075]

Mr. Thomas: No official in BERR or its predecessor Department has visited Seychelles on official business for many years. No records are available for 1983 and 1987.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205052]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has not built any smoking shelters at its London buildings over the last five years.

Stichling Hahn Hilbrich

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* value was of each (i) contract and (ii) transaction between his Department and Stichling Hahn Hilbrich in each of the last five years; and on what date each such (A) contract was signed and (B) transaction took place. [204926]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that no payments have been made to Stichling Hahn Hilbrich in any of the last five years.

Sustainability Live

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* ministerial and *(b)* official representation his Department plans to have at the environmental trade show Sustainability Live on 20 to 22 May. [203970]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department recognises the opportunities for business presented by the environmental trade show Sustainability Live. UK Trade and Investment's Meet the Buyer event at the show will bring 33 overseas buyers from 10 markets.

Although no Ministers will be available on this occasion, both BERR and UK Trade and Investment officials, including overseas commercial officers, will be promoting environmental opportunities and solutions to climate change.

Trade Competitiveness: Heathrow Airport

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the impact of the performance of Heathrow airport on UK competitiveness. [204294]

Mr. Thomas: My officials have regular discussions with officials in Department for Transport about the operation and future development of UK airports, including Heathrow airport.

Venture Capital: Females

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department is providing to support women's venture capital initiatives in 2008-09; and what steps he is taking to increase access to venture capital for women's enterprise. [203667]

Mr. Thomas: Enterprise Capital Funds (ECFs) are the Government's principal equity fund intervention and are available to a diverse range of businesses, including women-owned and women-led businesses. In addition, the Government made a commitment in their recent Enterprise Strategy to provide £12.5 million of capital to set up a fund to invest equity finance primarily in women-led businesses, with the aim of securing up to a total of £25 million of investment by working in partnership with the private sector. Capital for Enterprise Limited, which manages the Department's venture capital and loan activity, has been tasked with designing the fund and will invite proposals in the summer.

The fund is an integral part of a strong package of measures on women's enterprise announced recently in the Government's Enterprise Strategy. Those measures include provision for women's business centre pilots; enhanced mentoring support; a new national enterprise centre of expertise; a media campaign and activity aimed at opening up procurement opportunities to women-owned businesses. More information on the Strategy is available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/enterprisestrategy

Wind Power: Thames Estuary

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he was informed that Shell would be withdrawing from the London Array wind farm project. [204094]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* The composition of the London Array Consortium is a commercial matter for the parties involved. A number of successful offshore wind projects have changed ownership in the past, and we would therefore anticipate that the London Array project should be able to proceed. The Secretary of State was informed in confidence that Shell were re-considering their involvement in the London Array project a short time before their public statement. As Shell made clear in their announcement, the decision was a commercial matter and not related to the availability of Government support.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from participants in the London Array wind farm project on *(a)* the operation of the renewable obligation certificates system and *(b)* the Government's proposed changes to the system. [204095]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and his officials meet regularly with representatives from the offshore wind industry including members of the London Array consortium. These meetings are to discuss a range of issues surrounding the increased deployment of renewable generation in the UK, including planning, grid connection and changes to the Renewables Obligation (RO).

In addition the Government received 174 responses to the consultation on the reform of the RO which closed on 6 September 2007. This includes responses from members of the London Array consortium. Copies of all responses, except those who have requested confidentiality, can be found at:

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/policy/renewables-obligation/keystages/banding-ro/page42154

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Malaria

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the incidence of malaria in Africa; and what steps *(a)* the UK and *(b)* international organisations plan to take to combat the disease. [204661]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 9th May 2008]:* According to the latest estimates there are up to 500 million cases of malaria globally, and at least one million deaths annually. Around 90 per cent. of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, mostly in young children. The UK Government's support for malaria control is provided through international organisations and partnerships, bilateral programmes and research.

In April the Prime Minister announced that the UK will provide 20 million insecticide treated bed nets which are vital for preventing malaria. This is one of the first pledges made to "Cover The Bed Net Gap" launched by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBMP) to rally donor countries, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and the general public to achieve the goal of universal bed net coverage by 2010. This new RBMP initiative is a direct response to the UN Secretary-General's call for universal coverage of malaria control in Africa by the end of 2010 to mark World Malaria Day on 25 April 2008.

The UK Government, through the Department for International Development (DFID) have committed £1 billion by 2015 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. To date the fund has disbursed US$ 5.5 billion; 25 per cent. of which goes to malaria programmes. DFID also provides funding contributions to the WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank's International Development Association as well as the RBMP which plays a central role in helping countries develop and secure finance for national malaria plans. DFID supported UNITAID, the international drug purchase facility, with €20 million in 2007 to purchase drugs for anti-malarial treatments as well as for TB and HIV/AIDS. Our contribution will rise to €60 million by 2010. DFID has also contributed over £16 million for new drug development to the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDI) and the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV).

Burma: Storms

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid and assistance the Government have made available to Burma following the recent cyclone. [204989]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK made an initial pledge of £5 million for the immediate relief effort following Cyclone Nargis and stands ready to contribute much more. These funds will be used to help meet urgent humanitarian needs and will be channelled through UN agencies, the Red Cross and NGOs delivering assistance on the ground. This contribution will be in addition to the UK's long-term humanitarian programme inside Burma.

We have readied our stockpile of emergency supplies including tents, water containers, blankets, and plastics

sheets. And we have sourced additional logistic equipment and other relief items. The first airlift of these materials has departed.

A DFID team of emergency response experts arrived in Burma on weekend of 10/11 May, to support the DFID Burma Office and help to maximise the impact of DFID emergency funding.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to give additional aid to Burma following the recent cyclones. [205095]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK made an initial pledge of £5 million for the immediate relief effort following Cyclone Nargis and stands ready to contribute much more. These funds will be used to help meet urgent humanitarian needs and will be channelled through UN agencies, the Red Cross and NGOs delivering assistance on the ground. This contribution will be in addition to the UK's long-term humanitarian programme inside Burma.

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Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department met the civil service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office annual report 2007 by April 2008. [204714]

Gillian Merron: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp

The final measurement against the target will be published in autumn 2008.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his departmental website. [200148]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) website was last redesigned in 2004. This work was largely carried out by DFID staff as part of a wider range of responsibilities. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of the project from day-to-day publishing and IT support for the website.

Developing Countries: Children

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the United Nations Children's Fund report, "Our climate, our children, our responsibility;" and if he will make a statement. [203474]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) welcomes the recent UNICEF UK report "Our climate, our children, our responsibility" as a valuable contribution to the growing evidence base on the social impacts of climate change, and in particular the impacts on children. Climate change will most affect developing countries, and the poorest and most vulnerable in those societies, including children. This report further underlines the need for the international community to act urgently, both to mitigate the causes of climate change and to support developing countries to adapt to its impacts.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in respect of the world's poorest children. [203550]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government have committed £8.5 billion for education in developing countries over the 10 years to 2015-16. During the French President Sarkozy's recent visit to London, the UK and France agreed to each help support eight million children in school by 2010.

The UK Government commitment also include £150 million for children affected by HIV/AIDS (2004-07), over £10 million for addressing forced labour and child labour and over £16 million to combat trafficking of women and children.

The Department for International Development (DFID) supports children and young people through direct funding to non-governmental organisations, this includes £3.1 million to Plan UK for the period 2007-11 and £2.7 million to Save the Children for the period 2005-11. DFID has committed £7 million over the period 2006-09 to the 'Young Lives project', which is a 15-year study of child poverty in four countries.

The UK Government's work to enhance economic growth and to address inequality in developing countries also benefits the world's poorest children.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department plans to spend on combating HIV/AIDS in developing countries in each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10. [201940]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has set out its overall country level spending plans for the next three years in its Annual Report which was published on 8 May (for more information see http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/departmental-report/2008/default.asp). These spending plans have been developed as part of an overall planning framework to ensure delivery of the 2008-11 public service agreement on International Poverty Reduction and the underlying DFID Departmental Strategic Objectives.

The UK remains committed to fighting HIV and AIDS in developing countries and has already made an unprecedented long-term commitment to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria of up to £1 billion over 2008-15. More details on DFID's approach to tackling HIV and AIDS will be set out in an updated strategy due to be launched in the near future.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for which *(a)* countries and *(b)* regions his Department will be developing new country assistance plans in 2008 and 2009; and what arrangements he plans to make for consultation on these plans. [205258]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The following country and regional plans have been or are currently scheduled to be submitted for agreement during 2008 and 2009: Vietnam, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Caribbean, Kenya, Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen, Palestine, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe. For many of these countries, consultations have already been undertaken or are taking place.

When country and regional plans are being prepared, my Department follows Cabinet Office guidance on consultation processes, including a 12-week public consultation publicised on the Department for International Development (DFID) external website. In addition to discussions with partner governments, in-country and external consultation takes place with other donors, civil society, NGOs and the private sector, and with other UK Government Departments.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish the final country assistance plans for *(a)* countries and *(b)* regions adopted following recent consultations. [205259]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The country and regional planning process was revised in March 2008. Country and regional plans approved by me will continue to be published on DFID's external website and in hard copy. Future country and regional plans will appear as shorter documents, showing more clearly the link between the UK Government's investment and development needs, where and how funds will be spent and accounted for, and the outcomes expected as a result of our investment. The timetable for doing so will normally be not more than 12 weeks following approval of a country or regional plan.

Mozambique: Overseas Aid

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial aid the Government gave to Mozambique in 2007. [203979]

Mr. Malik: In 2006-07, total UK bilateral expenditure in Mozambique was £56.3 million, of which, £46.8 million was delivered as financial aid. Data for 2007-08 will be published later this year in the next edition of Statistics in International Development.

The UK's imputed share of multilateral official development assistance to Mozambique in 2006-07 was £25.7 million.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on aid to *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* India in each year since 2000. [203770]

Mr. Malik: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to India and Pakistan since 2000 are laid out in the following tables:

Table 1: Total DFID Bilateral Expenditure, 2000-01 to 2006-07

£000

	India	Pakistan
2000-01	114,814	14,587
2001-02	179,021	43,198
2002-03	154,742	38,314
2003-04	196,897	66,240
2004-05	257,649	31,377
2005-06	252,759	97,413
2006-07	233,857	101,118

Table 2: Imputed DFID Share of Multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA), 2000-01 to 2006-07

£000

	India	Pakistan
2000-01	71,671	3,026
2001-02	21,590	24,971
2002-03	57,736	39,233
2003-04	16,199	14,208
2004-05	21,011	13,742
2005-06	36,913	55,951
2006-07	80,842	20,803

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2325W, on Palestinians: overseas aid, what detailed criteria will be applied in making decisions about further UK disbursements; and if he will make a statement. [204079]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: As with every country programme of the Department for International Development (DFID), our aid is given on the basis of need and a shared commitment to poverty reduction.

The Palestinian reform and development plan was the basis for all the $7.7 billion donor pledges at the Paris pledging conference. The UK pledge of £243 million is linked to tangible progress in peace negotiations, including progress on reform and the easing of movement and access restrictions.

UK aid helps the Palestinian Authority fulfil its commitments to the peace process, deliver institutional reform, provide essential services that benefit the poor and vulnerable, and ensure a better security environment.

Taylor Nelson Sofres

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the value of contracts awarded to Taylor Nelson Sofres by his Department was in each year since 1997. [201660]

Mr. Malik: The value of contracts awarded to Taylor Nelson Sofres by the Department for International Development (DFID) in each year since 1997 is as follows:

	£
2002-03	66,039
2007-08	60,840

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid was delivered to Zimbabwe in each of the last five years. [203695]

Mr. Malik: Details on UK aid to Zimbabwe over the last five years are shown in the following tables. Since 2003, none of our aid funding has been given through the Government of Zimbabwe but has been directed instead through the United Nations and non-governmental organisations.

Table 1: UK Total Bilateral Gross Public Expenditure (GPEX) on Development to Zimbabwe, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	£000 Total GPEX
2002-03	29,926
2003-04	34,167
2004-05	25,854
2005-06	34,121
2006-07	32,960

Table 2: Imputed UK Share of Multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA), 2002-03 to 2006-07

	£000 Zimbabwe
2002-03	4,496
2003-04	1,929
2004-05	3,522
2005-06	5,106
2006-07	6,145

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

UK-Israeli Relations

11. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on UK-Israeli relations on the 60th anniversary of the state of Israel. [204805]

David Miliband: I wish to add my congratulations to the state of Israel on its 60th anniversary, and its remarkable achievements in politics, business, arts and science. We enjoy a close bilateral relationship. We seek to use our position as a friend of both Israel and the Palestinians to help make progress towards a two state solution, allowing both peoples to live in peace.

Iranian Nuclear Programme

12. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Iranian nuclear programme. [204807]

David Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) today.

EU Foreign Policy

13. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his French counterpart on EU foreign policy. [204808]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK Government have regular contact and discussions with the French Government on EU and other foreign policy issues. Our recent discussions have included exchanges of views on Burma, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Kosovo, Iran and Georgia.

Middle East

14. **Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress in the Middle East peace process; and if he will make a statement. [204809]

Meg Munn: The obstacles to peace are huge, but the talks between the Israelis and Palestinians, under way as part of the Annapolis process, offer the best hope for years of making progress. We, with our international partners, are doing all we can to support this process. On 2 May we co-hosted a series of high level meetings in London to focus on supporting Palestinian institutions.

Zimbabwe

15. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [204810]

Meg Munn: Since the elections, elements of the security forces have systematically brutalised ordinary Zimbabweans, with almost 700 people beaten, 6 murdered and over 7,000 people displaced. The majority of Zimbabweans have already rejected Robert Mugabe as President. For any second round to be free and fair, violence must cease and international observers be given access now. We will continue to urge for a UN human rights mission or envoy to investigate abuses.

22. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [204817]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) today.

23. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [204818]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) today.

24. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on human rights in Zimbabwe. [204819]

Meg Munn: More than 700 verified cases of politically motivated violence have been recorded, at least 120 people have been hospitalised and six murdered since 29 March. 7,000 people have been displaced. The UK is supporting the victims of violence through DFID's aid programme, and continues to press for a UN human rights mission or envoy to visit Zimbabwe to investigate abuses.

Gaza

16. **Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Gaza. [204811]

Meg Munn: We are very concerned about the grave situation with renewed violence in the Gaza Strip, and the firing of rockets from Gaza into Israel. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in regular contact with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Prime Minister Fayyad, Israeli Foreign Minister Livni and key international figures came to London on 2 May to discuss the situation as well as how we can support Palestinian institutions.

Darfur

17. **Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on the UK initiative to host peace talks on the crisis in Darfur. [204812]

Meg Munn: There has been little movement in the Darfur political process owing to fragmentation among rebel groups and continued violence. The UK has offered further support for international efforts, including a possible meeting in the UK, if that would help revitalise the process. We are exploring the scope for this with the United Nations and African Union, Sudan's neighbours and international partners, the Government of Sudan and Darfur movements.

19. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made on securing a London Conference of all parties on Darfur. [204814]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill (Mr. Clarke) today.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

18. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on securing a Non-Proliferation Treaty review in 2010. [204813]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The non-proliferation treaty is subject to a review cycle, with the next review in 2010. Prior to 2010 the UK will use the NPT Preparatory Committee to take forward work to strengthen the treaty. The UK will promote consensus around key measures encompassing the treaty's three pillars—zero tolerance of proliferation; safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology; and reinvigorated commitment to a world free from nuclear weapons.

Iraq

20. **Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he proposes to establish an inquiry into the Government's discharge of its responsibilities in relation to the war in Iraq. [204815]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has previously acknowledged the requirement for an inquiry into the military action we undertook in Iraq, and to look at the lessons from our experiences.

He has also stated that the time for that inquiry is after our forces have completed their work in Iraq.

Pakistan

21. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to support democracy in Pakistan. [204816]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are working with the Government of Pakistan, both bilaterally and through the EU and other multilateral organisations, to help meet the political and economic challenges it faces.

Recent visits by my right hon. Friends the Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary have underscored the UK's commitment to promote good governance, strengthen democratic institutions, and combat terrorism. The UK played an active role in the EU's Election Observation Mission in February.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of political prisoners in Cuba. [204583]

Meg Munn: It is difficult to estimate the number of political prisoners in Cuba as the Cuban government maintains tight control over such information.

In a January 2007 report, the Personal Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Cuba, Christine Chanet, noted that 59 of the 75 dissidents detained during the spring 2003 opposition crackdown remained in prison. In July 2007 the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation cited 246 cases of political prisoners. Since then, four political prisoners have been released and exiled to Spain.

Amnesty International now identifies at least 58 dissidents that remain incarcerated in Cuba.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204102]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to the Government's carbon offsetting programme. In 2006 the FCO spent £200,000 on carbon credits to offset the carbon dioxide, and other emissions, generated by the air travel of Ministers and officials based in the UK in 2004. These credits were bought through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) carbon offset scheme from South African wind developer Genesis ECO-Energy (Pty) Ltd. A further £812,608 has been paid to REEEP to offset the same category of travel undertaken in 2005 and 2006. This will be used to purchase credits in a scheme in a developing country which is also a key climate change partner. Travel undertaken in 2007 will be similarly offset once the level of emissions are known.

English Channel

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on attempts to rename the English Channel. [204026]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the renaming of the English Channel with EU counterparts.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to oppose any moves to change the name of the English Channel at the next United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. [204027]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* The next UN Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names is in 2012. The Conference cannot legislate, or pass resolutions, on renaming specific geographical locations. We are unaware of any move to rename the English Channel.

Malaysia: Military Decorations

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the correspondence between officials from his Department and the Malaysian authorities concerning the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [204651]

Meg Munn: We have no plans to do so.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 371W, on Malaysia Military Decorations, on *(a)* how many occasions and *(b)* what dates officials from his Department and the Malaysian High Commission met to discuss the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [204652]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds regular bilateral meetings with officials from the Malaysian high commission, as it does with all other embassies and high commissions. The Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal was discussed on a number of occasions, during meetings, by email and on the telephone during the course of 2005. The honours secretary from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office met with officials from the Malaysian high commission to brief them on the outcome of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals' discussions on 20 December 2005, prior to the decision being made public.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons there was no correspondence between the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals and the Malaysian authorities prior to the decision by the Committee that British veterans may accept, but not wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [204653]

Meg Munn: It is not usual for the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (HD Committee) to enter into correspondence with a country offering a medal to British citizens. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is responsible for relations with overseas governments and relays relevant views and factors (such as bilateral relations) to the committee. The HD Committee considers these alongside other issues such as the importance of upholding the rules, which govern the British honours system.

Nigeria: Security

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Nigeria. [204325]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) reviews the security situation in Nigeria continually and its assessment is reflected in the FCO's Travel Advice.

We advise against all travel to some of the Niger Delta States (Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers, including Port Harcourt) and riverine areas of the Cross River State. We advise British nationals in these states to leave. Additionally, the FCO advise against all but essential travel to the Akwa Ibom State. This advice is due to the high risk to individuals of kidnapping, armed robbery and other armed attacks in these areas.

The FCO does not advise against travel to other areas of Nigeria. However, travellers should be aware of an increase in violent street crime in the south of the country. Demonstrations and outbreaks of localised civil unrest and violence can occur with little notice throughout the country. We continue to keep the security situation in Nigeria under review and update our travel advice accordingly.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent *(a)* assessment he has made of the intensity of conflict and *(b)* estimate he has made of the deaths occurring in southern Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [204337]

Meg Munn: We are aware of recent clashes in the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan, one of the three disputed areas along the border between North and South Sudan. These have mostly been small scale inter-tribal skirmishes, but during 24-29 April involved clashes between units of the Sudan People's Liberation Army

and armed elements of the Misseriya tribe. Reports from the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) suggest fighting was localised and calm has since been restored. Reliable casualty figures are hard to ascertain, but UNMIS suggest a total of 31 casualties.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, raised the issue of the disputed border between North and South Sudan during their meetings with the Sudanese Foreign Minister of 28-30 April. They urged the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to engage with the Assessment and Evaluation Commission as a suitable body to broker a resolution for the border disputes.

Sudan: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Sudan on its *(a)* treatment of refugees and *(b)* compliance with UNHCR protocols and commitments. [204340]

Meg Munn: We monitor refugees in Sudan through the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who has reported that refugees arriving in Sudan are assessed at one of the recognised refugee camps near Kassala in the border area with Eritrea. Refugees are required to stay in the camps and are not normally granted the right to travel from a designated area. A UNHCR legal team attends any court cases where recognised refugees have been arrested.

Sudan: Refugees

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of refugees in Sudan, with particular reference to those from Eritrea. [204339]

Meg Munn: Our officials in Khartoum monitor the status of refugees in Sudan through the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to whom we give strong support. As a result of UNHCR's lobbying, the Government of Sudan has set up a committee to revise domestic legislation on asylum.

Zimbabwe: African Union

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to send an African Union *(a)* envoy and *(b)* observer mission to Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [204845]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* The Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission undertook a mission to the Southern African region, including Zimbabwe, from 3-5 May 2008. The mission was part of a wider effort, by the AU, to engage with the situation in Zimbabwe. No plans have emerged for a further specific envoy to be sent. The AU sent an observer mission to monitor elections in Zimbabwe and have indicated that a farther mission would be deployed to observe any second round.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with leaders of African Union states on steps to resolve the electoral crisis in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [204843]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, have been in regular contact with a large number of Heads of State and Foreign Ministers in Africa and elsewhere. We continue to encourage their engagement and press them to use their influence to bring a speedy and peaceful resolution to the electoral crisis and an end to human rights abuses.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list the 10 largest employers in the country that have declined to participate in apprenticeship schemes. [205322]

Mr. Lammy: We do not hold information to answer this question. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) works with many of the largest employers in England to resolve skills issues and implement workforce development solutions. The LSC through its National Employer Service has a current programme to engage with 300 of the largest companies by 2011.

Apprentices: Disabled

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on the impact of Government policy changes in respect of Remploy Ltd. on the number of disabled people on apprenticeships. [205320]

Mr. Lammy: Remploy's new learning business is currently looking at how the organisation could support the Learning and Skills Council in increasing the number of disabled apprentices within its overall business strategy of supporting 20,000 disabled people into work every year by 2012. We are introducing an entitlement to an apprenticeship for all suitably qualified young people and together with Remploy's modernisation programme I expect this will have a positive impact on the number of people with a disability accessing an apprenticeship.

Apprentices: Employment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of apprenticeships that are statistically *(a)* most and *(b)* least likely to end in employment within 12 months of close of training. [205318]

Mr. Lammy: Data are not available for the 12 months following an apprentice completing their framework. The information provided in the following table shows apprentice destinations immediately following the completion of their apprenticeship.

Immediate destination of 2005/06 apprenticeships framework completions by sector

Sector	*Employed*[1]	*Unemployed*	*Training*	*Other*[2]	*Percentage Total completions*[3]
Government Skills (Central Government)	100	0	0	0	275
LLUK (HE and FE)	100	0	0	0	13
Proskills (process and manufacturing)	92	1	0	7	590
Skillfast (fashion and textiles)	89	1	0	10	483
Skills for Logistics (delivery and storage)	87	2	0	12	853
Skills for Security[4]	85	0	0	15	544
People 1st (hospitality, travel and tourism)	83	0	0	16	8,111
SEMTA (engineering)	82	1	1	16	8,715
Inst of Customer Service[4]	81	1	0	18	8,266
GoSkills (passenger transport)	80	5	0	15	1,374
e-skills (IT and telecoms)	80	1	1	17	4,991
Cogent (chemicals, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas)	80	3	1	16	88
Habia (hair and beauty)[4]	79	1	1	19	8,375
Skillsmart Retail	78	2	0	19	3,832
Automotive Skills	78	1	1	21	6,385
Lantra (environmental and land-based)	77	2	2	19	2,224
SummitSkills (building services engineering)	76	0	2	22	5,783
Skills for Health	76	2	5	17	3,564
SkillsActive (sport and recreation)	76	0	3	21	2,018
Others[4, 5]	75	2	0	23	359
Financial Services	74	0	0	26	165
Council for Administration[4]	72	3	1	24	13,648
Improve (food and drink manufacture)	71	1	0	28	298
Asset Skills (property and cleaning)	68	0	0	32	125
Skills for Care and Development	68	6	2	24	6,039
ECITB/Construction	62	1	0	36	9,184
Creative and Cultural	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Skills for Justice	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Skillset (creative media industries)	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Total	76	2	1	21	296,310

[1] Proportions are calculated as a proportion of the framework completions where a destination is known.
[2] Other destination includes death, pregnancy and awaiting confirmation of achievement.
[3] Total does not include those framework achievements for which the destination is unknown.
[4] Indicates a sector that is not a Sector Skills Council.
[5] Others sectors includes minor bodies and where records are incomplete.
[6] Indicates fewer than 10 completions.
Source:
LSC Work Based Learning Individualised Learner record.

Campusalam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funds have been allocated to the Campusalam website by his Department and its predecessor in each year for which figures are available. [205417]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has not allocated any funds to the Campusalam website.

Higher Education

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what mechanisms exist for co-ordination of higher education policy between the Government and the devolved administrations. [204589]

Bill Rammell: Each administration determines its own higher education policies and all HE institutions are autonomous. Ministers and officials meet from time to time to discuss each others' policies and issues of common interest, such as information given to students about the support available if they study outside their home country.

University for Industry: Citigate Public Affairs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what payments *(a)* University for Industry and *(b)* Learn Direct made to Citigate Public Affairs in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202263]

Mr. Lammy: The payments made by Ufi at this level of detail are not collected by my Department. This is an operational matter for Ufi since they determine any payments to local providers, partners and other organisations that are necessary to support the delivery of the Ufi's key priorities and targets. Sarah Jones, Ufi's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with further information and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Sarah Jones, dated 1 May 2008:

I write following your Parliamentary Question regarding the payment of fees to Citigate Public Affairs over the last five years.

The table below outlines the expenditure of Ufi, the company which owns and operates learndirect services in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, in relation to this public affairs company:

	12 months 2003[1]	*12 months 2004*[1]	*12 months 2005*[1]	*12 months 2006*	*12 months 2007*	*3 months 2008*	£ *Total*
England/general	142,061	71,219	18,057	14,400	13,200	2,400	261,337
Wales	36,000	21,000	—	—	—	—	57,000
N Ireland	4,500	3,500	4,500	—	—	—	12,500
MP database	—	10,400	—	—	—	—	10,400
Public Accounts Committee	—	—	8,825	—	—	—	8,825
Party conference fees	—	24,636	—	—	—	—	24,636
Other	—	14,850	—	—	—	—	14,850
	182,561	145,605	31,382	14,400	13,200	2,400	389,548

[1] Citigate Public Affairs services to 2005 were purchased via Central Office of Information.

Note:

Citigate Public Affairs were taken over by Grayling Group in June 2007—sums paid to Grayling Group are therefore included for consistency

The fees noted above covered the provision of the following services:

2003

Management of Ufi's attendance at the three main autumn party conferences.

Weekly provision of parliamentary and environmental monitoring on education and skills issues and policy.

Provision of ad hoc public affairs advice to the Chief Executive at that time.

Development and delivery of communications campaigns to Whitehall and Westminster audience to promote the contribution of learndirect to delivering the Government's skills agenda.

Provision of briefings on MPs to Ufi staff in preparation for visits by MPs to learndirect centres.

Building, populating and maintaining a database recording contact between Ufi and learndirect, and MPs through visits to centres and correspondence.

2004

Management of attendance at the three main autumn party conferences.

Weekly provision of parliamentary and environmental monitoring on education and skills issues and policy.

Provision of ad hoc public affairs advice to the Chief Executive at that time.

Development and delivery of communications campaigns to Whitehall and Westminster audience to promote the contribution of learndirect to delivering the Government's skills agenda.

Provision of briefings on MPs to Ufi staff in preparation for visits by MPs to learndirect centres.

Building, populating and maintaining a database recording contact between Ufi and learndirect, and MPs through visits to centres and correspondence.

2005

Preparation for Ufi's first appearance before the Public Accounts Committee (14 November 2005), including training of Ufi witnesses and background briefing on Committee members.

Building, populating and maintaining a database recording contact between Ufi and learndirect, and MPs through visits to centres and correspondence.

2006

Building, populating and maintaining a database recording contact between Ufi and learndirect, and MPs through visits to centres and correspondence.

2007

Building, populating and maintaining a database recording contact between Ufi and learndirect, and MPs through visits to centres and correspondence.

2008

Building, populating and maintaining a database recording contact between Ufi and learndirect and MPs through visits to centres and correspondence.

I believe this information answers the Parliamentary Question you posed on 24 April 2008.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Council of Economic Advisers: Complaints

Alan Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether civil servants in his Department have lodged complaints against a member of the Council of Economic Advisers since 1997. [204135]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* It is standard practice not to disclose details of personnel issues relating to individual employees.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205170]

Phil Hope: The information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many looked after children there were in each local authority in each of the last five years. [205577]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of children in care in each local authority area in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. (Table LAA1).

Table LAA1 is taken from the Statistical First Release entitled 'Children Looked After in England (Including Adoption and Care Leavers) year ending 31 March 2007', which is located at: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml and table LAA1 can be found within the 1st set of 10 additional tables supplementing SFR27/2007 on the website.

Table LAA1: Children looked after at 31 March 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]. England

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Numbers					*Rates*				
	2003[4]	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*	*2003[4]*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*
England	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	55	55	55	55	55
North East	3,280	3,320	3,290	3,160	3,250	59	60	60	58	61
Darlington	155	145	140	150	140	71	66	63	67	63
Durham	445	495	475	410	405	42	47	46	40	40
Gateshead	250	265	245	280	305	61	64	61	70	77
Hartlepool	105	115	120	115	135	49	54	55	55	63
Middlesbrough	265	240	240	240	240	77	72	72	74	75
Newcastle Upon Tyne	380	415	445	440	475	69	77	83	83	91
North Tyneside	275	240	230	220	230	66	58	56	55	57
Northumberland	330	335	350	315	325	50	52	55	50	52
Redcar and Cleveland	150	140	130	135	140	48	44	42	43	46
South Tyneside	270	265	265	240	250	79	79	80	75	80
Stockton-On-Tees	205	215	190	190	185	47	49	44	44	44
Sunderland	465	450	460	430	420	74	72	75	72	71
North West	9,930	10,070	10,240	10,260	10,410	64	65	67	67	69
Blackburn with Darwen	290	275	290	310	295	74	70	74	79	76
Blackpool	245	270	275	290	260	81	89	91	97	87
Bolton	305	345	380	390	405	48	55	60	62	65
Bury	265	250	290	300	290	61	58	68	70	68
Cheshire	480	495	490	500	545	32	34	33	34	37
Cumbria	620	550	525	480	465	60	53	51	47	46
Halton	190	170	165	160	160	65	59	59	58	57
Knowsley	235	260	280	280	290	62	69	75	76	80
Lancashire	1,300	1,285	1,270	1,280	1,305	50	50	49	50	51
Liverpool	1,015	985	870	820	860	103	102	93	90	96
Manchester	1,240	1,325	1,370	1,455	1,480	128	139	145	154	157
Oldham	295	320	335	360	385	53	57	60	65	70
Rochdale	290	315	315	310	325	56	61	61	62	65
Salford	585	565	575	565	570	120	117	122	121	123
Sefton	370	325	305	330	320	58	51	49	54	54
St Helens	230	235	260	295	320	57	58	64	74	81
Stockport	380	360	370	310	330	59	57	58	50	54
Tameside	295	315	350	320	325	58	62	70	65	67
Trafford	200	195	220	215	220	42	41	46	45	46
Warrington	190	190	210	200	185	42	43	48	46	43
Wigan	415	455	430	410	400	60	66	63	61	60
Wirral	500	590	675	680	670	68	82	95	97	97
Yorkshire and The Humber	6,680	6,630	6,550	6,430	6,550	59	58	58	57	59
Barnsley	250	265	250	275	260	51	54	51	56	53
Bradford	815	845	835	830	810	66	68	68	67	65
Calderdale	185	200	235	235	260	40	44	52	51	57
Doncaster	410	400	390	415	405	61	60	59	64	63
East Riding of Yorkshire	245	265	290	285	295	37	39	43	42	45
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	615	570	510	550	525	105	98	89	97	94

Table LAA1: Children looked after at 31 March 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3] England

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Numbers					Rates				
	2003[4]	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*	*2003[4]*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*
Kirklees	295	305	310	330	385	31	32	33	35	41
Leeds	1,350	1,385	1,335	1,315	1,360	85	88	86	85	89
North East Lincolnshire	240	230	190	145	155	62	60	50	38	43
North Lincolnshire	180	195	190	170	160	52	56	55	49	47
North Yorkshire	380	395	415	415	430	30	32	33	33	35
Rotherham	410	365	380	315	340	70	62	66	55	59
Sheffield	715	630	660	650	670	66	58	61	61	63
Wakefield	435	420	410	365	340	60	59	57	52	49
York	150	160	150	140	155	42	45	42	40	45
East Midlands	4,030	3,940	3,760	3,690	3,680	43	42	40	39	39
Derby	385	385	370	380	390	71	72	69	72	74
Derbyshire	580	530	520	500	500	36	33	32	31	31
Leicester	475	515	465	460	440	69	75	69	68	65
Leicestershire	360	345	330	350	325	27	26	25	26	24
Lincolnshire	560	595	600	560	525	40	42	42	40	37
Northamptonshire	600	600	535	555	565	40	40	35	36	37
Nottingham	525	485	445	410	465	90	84	78	73	83
Nottinghamshire	530	475	475	460	440	32	29	29	28	27
Rutland	10	10	15	10	20	12	13	18	13	24
West Midlands	7,120	6,910	6,980	7,140	7,320	58	57	57	59	61
Birmingham	2,055	1,915	1,915	1,965	2,105	81	76	76	78	84
Coventry	510	500	500	490	500	72	72	72	72	74
Dudley	410	420	430	450	470	60	62	64	67	70
Herefordshire	190	195	175	155	170	50	51	46	42	46
Sandwell	525	515	525	555	505	76	75	77	82	75
Shropshire	200	175	185	190	185	33	28	30	31	31
Solihull	200	220	245	285	325	42	47	53	62	70
Staffordshire	620	580	635	680	660	35	33	36	39	38
Stoke-On-Trent	425	395	405	430	440	80	75	77	82	85
Telford and Wrekin	200	195	190	200	230	51	49	49	51	60
Walsall	465	485	460	455	430	75	79	76	75	72
Warwickshire	400	445	465	470	455	36	40	42	42	41
Wolverhampton	385	380	400	375	370	70	69	74	70	70
Worcestershire	535	495	455	435	475	45	42	38	37	40
East of England	5,570	5,750	5,800	5,750	5,650	46	47	48	47	46
Bedfordshire	405	440	390	330	315	45	48	42	36	34
Cambridgeshire	345	350	380	385	365	28	28	31	31	30
Essex	1,250	1,285	1,285	1,300	1,235	42	44	44	44	42
Hertfordshire	960	985	980	965	975	40	41	41	40	40
Luton	400	410	395	395	380	82	86	84	84	81
Norfolk	730	755	830	825	835	45	46	51	51	51
Peterborough	325	335	375	370	375	84	87	98	96	97
Southend-on-Sea	265	305	315	305	285	74	85	90	87	82
Suffolk	675	680	665	690	700	45	46	44	46	47
Thurrock	225	210	190	185	185	64	60	53	52	52
London	11,740	12,140	11,880	11,770	11,290	73	75	74	73	70
Inner London	5,990	6,200	5,970	5,750	5,380	100	103	100	96	91
Camden	345	360	340	340	345	92	96	89	87	88
City Of London	5	15	25	20	25	80	208	303	268	296
Hackney	455	480	480	460	440	87	92	92	89	86

Table LAA1: Children looked after at 31 March 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3] England

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Numbers					*Rates*				
	2003[4]	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*	*2003[4]*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*
Hammersmith and Fulham	390	435	410	390	365	128	143	134	127	120
Haringey	520	515	500	490	445	104	103	100	100	90
Islington	480	475	445	400	365	135	135	128	117	108
Kensington and Chelsea	240	260	250	235	200	86	92	86	78	67
Lambeth	645	630	615	660	595	115	114	111	121	110
Lewisham	565	615	570	480	460	98	109	101	85	81
Newham	675	700	665	685	665	95	100	98	103	101
Southwark	680	660	655	640	625	121	119	119	117	115
Tower Hamlets	330	365	390	380	345	66	72	78	78	71
Wandsworth	365	355	325	275	255	80	78	71	59	54
Westminster	305	330	305	295	260	99	104	95	89	78
Outer London	5,750	5,940	5,910	6,010	5,900	57	59	58	59	58
Barking and Dagenham	385	370	390	375	345	90	87	92	86	79
Barnet	380	390	400	370	345	53	54	55	51	47
Bexley	230	205	220	210	205	45	40	43	41	40
Brent	355	385	375	400	405	61	66	65	70	71
Bromley	310	315	295	285	255	47	48	44	43	38
Croydon	680	720	705	800	990	84	90	88	100	125
Ealing	410	390	435	455	435	61	60	67	70	67
Enfield	310	320	305	295	290	48	49	46	44	43
Greenwich	555	555	495	525	525	106	107	97	102	102
Harrow	160	165	170	175	160	33	34	35	36	33
Havering	165	185	190	200	185	33	37	38	40	38
Hillingdon	460	520	590	630	505	80	91	103	110	88
Hounslow	320	325	330	340	340	66	67	69	71	71
Kingston Upon Thames	85	135	90	90	80	27	44	29	28	26
Merton	175	145	145	110	95	43	36	36	27	24
Redbridge	150	170	180	165	175	26	29	30	28	29
Richmond Upon Thames	115	110	100	90	85	33	31	27	24	22
Sutton	165	155	155	145	145	39	37	37	34	34
Waltham Forest	340	385	360	360	330	66	75	69	70	63
South East	7,550	7,530	7,590	7,470	7,340	42	42	42	42	41
Bracknell Forest	65	75	65	80	80	25	27	25	29	29
Brighton and Hove	385	385	365	380	400	83	84	79	82	86
Buckinghamshire	270	305	295	315	325	24	27	26	28	29
East Sussex	475	460	465	465	445	45	44	44	44	43
Hampshire	1,045	1,045	1,035	1,070	1,025	37	37	37	38	37
Isle Of Wight	155	165	165	175	200	57	61	60	64	73
Kent	1,515	1,375	1,475	1,350	1,235	49	45	48	44	40
Medway Towns	355	380	345	350	350	57	61	56	57	58
Milton Keynes	225	205	230	235	215	41	38	42	43	39
Oxfordshire	505	485	480	430	410	38	36	36	32	30
Portsmouth	255	270	300	285	265	64	68	77	74	68
Reading	170	185	195	190	215	56	63	67	65	74
Slough	140	135	145	140	135	48	46	51	49	46
Southampton	340	330	315	300	295	77	75	73	70	70
Surrey	710	795	785	735	755	31	34	33	31	32
West Berkshire	110	105	125	115	115	32	31	36	32	32
West Sussex	700	705	695	735	730	43	43	42	45	45
Windsor and Maidenhead	60	70	55	70	85	19	23	18	22	26
Wokingham	60	55	60	60	65	18	15	17	18	19

Table LAA1: Children looked after at 31 March 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3], England

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Numbers					Rates				
	2003[4]	2004[4]	2005[5]	2006[5]	2007[5]	2003[4]	2004[4]	2005[5]	2006[5]	2007[5]
South West	4,880	4,900	4,860	4,630	4,550	46	46	46	44	43
Bath and North East Somerset	140	125	105	115	125	40	36	30	33	36
Bournemouth	205	190	180	170	140	68	64	61	58	49
Bristol, City of	535	560	630	600	635	65	69	79	76	80
Cornwall	555	555	530	490	465	53	53	51	46	45
Devon	695	685	610	575	580	48	47	42	40	40
Dorset	280	275	295	275	250	35	34	36	34	31
Gloucestershire	465	450	440	400	400	37	36	35	32	32
Isles Of Scilly	0	—	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	0
North Somerset	160	170	150	160	160	40	42	37	38	38
Plymouth	505	515	515	425	390	96	99	99	83	77
Poole	140	135	120	125	110	48	48	42	44	39
Somerset	365	380	375	400	385	33	34	33	36	34
South Gloucestershire	125	140	150	170	170	22	25	26	30	30
Swindon	220	210	240	250	255	52	51	58	60	60
Torbay	215	205	215	175	190	81	78	80	67	72
Wiltshire	285	295	305	300	295	29	29	30	29	29

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.
[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[4] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04, covered all children looked after.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to assist working parents with childcare outside school hours since 1997. [204548]

Beverley Hughes: Since 1997, the total number of registered childcare places has more than doubled; and the number of places in out of school clubs has increased from 78,700 to 365,400 over the same period.

Childcare, including activity based provision that parents can use as childcare, is a key part of the extended schools core offer. Primary schools are expected to provide access to traditional childcare between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. in line with demand as well as a range of activities. Secondary schools are expected to deliver access to activities that provide a safe place for children and young people to be between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Over 10,500 schools are already delivering access to the full core offer and many more schools are delivering access to the childcare and activities elements of it. All schools will provide access to the core of extended services by 2010, with at least half of all primary schools and a third of secondary schools doing so by September 2008.

All local authorities were required to complete assessments of the sufficiency of childcare in their areas by 31 March, identifying supply, demand, and gaps between the two. Since 1 April, local authorities have also been under a new duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents, and that will help parents who are seeking childcare outside school hours to find the flexible, affordable, high quality provision that they want for their children.

We appreciate the impact that childcare costs can have on the family budget and are providing substantial help—over £3.5 million a day—through the tax credits system to help working parents with the cost of childcare. Parents making use of childcare out of school hours are, like other parents, benefiting from this.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204401]

Kevin Brennan: My right hon. Friend has visited *(a)* Scotland once, *(b)* Wales once but has not visited *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity since June 2007. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consider reforming the eligibility criteria for the education maintenance allowance (EMA) to allow children under the age of 16 years who have been advanced one school year or more and are studying at a post-16 educational level to receive the EMA. [205136]

Jim Knight: We have no plans to make EMA available to young people under the age of 16. EMA is not based on the academic level a pupil reaches. It is

targeted at those who reach the end of their compulsory school phase who have the option of dropping out of learning.

The purpose of EMA is to remove barriers to learning, and increase participation and retention rates among learners who can legally leave education. Therefore, EMA is not available to learners who by law must remain in education.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what date he expects *(a)* Key Stage 2 and *(b)* Key Stage 3 pupils to receive the results of their 2008 national tests; and if he will make a statement. [205022]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency, which administers the National Curriculum tests for Key Stages 2 and 3, has stated that all schools will receive their test results by Tuesday 8 July 2008.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department has had with ETS on the training of markers of Key Stage 2 and 3 national tests; and if he will make a statement. [205023]

Jim Knight: None. The National Assessment Agency and ETS Europe, as its delivery partner, are responsible for the recruitment and training of markers for National Curriculum tests for Key Stages 2 and 3. All markers receive professional training in applying the mark scheme. Supervising markers attend a minimum of two full-day training meetings, focusing on the application of the mark scheme and on supporting markers in doing so.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures his Department has in place to ensure that all markers of national tests are qualified; and if he will make a statement. [205025]

Jim Knight: The criteria for recruiting markers for 2008 are the same as in previous years. The new test operations contractor, ETS Europe requires markers to have an educational qualification and teaching experience in the relevant Key Stage and subject. All markers are also subject to a referee check by the Test Operations Agency. Markers are required to attend a full-day training meeting. If markers do not attend the relevant training meeting they are not allowed to mark. Following the training meeting, all markers are required to successfully pass "standardisation", a process whereby markers are required to mark a set number of national standard scripts. Markers that do not pass the standardisation process are not permitted to mark pupils' scripts.

Employment Tribunals Service: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints his Department has received about the administering of national tests by ETS; and if he will make a statement. [205024]

Jim Knight: Records show that the Department has received four inquiries over the last week about the administration of national tests by the test operations contractor, ETS Europe. These are matters for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

Extracurricular Activities

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to increase participation in after-school activities on the part of school pupils since 1997. [204549]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are committed to making out of school activities available to all children, and has put in place a large range of action to support this as part of the extended schools programme.

Our commitment is that by 2010 all schools will be providing access to a core range of extended services, including a varied menu of activities from 8am to 6pm. We are making very good progress, with more than 10,500 schools now providing the full core offer, and many more already providing the varied menu of activities aspect of the core offer.

A total of £840 million of Government funding was made available to local authorities and schools up to 2008 to support them in developing extended services, with some funding also available to promote and encourage effective programmes of study support available as part of the school development grant. A further £1.3 billion has been announced and will be available over the next three years to support the start-up and sustainability of services. Also as part of this, specific funding will be made available to support access to activities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Training and Development Agency support schools and local authorities to develop extended services, together with other partner organisations from the private and voluntary sectors. Guidance on extended schools and study support has provided practical advice for schools and their partners on setting up activities, developing and funding them, and has highlighted the significant benefits of doing so.

Flexible Working

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2095W, what the standard procedure for requesting flexible working arrangements in his Department is; what guidance is given to employees in his Department advising them on how they can request flexible working; and if he will place a copy of this guidance in the Library. [203035]

Kevin Brennan: Any member of staff can request a change in working pattern and line managers should consider requests in line with the published policy and guidance.

I have arranged for a copy of the guidance to be placed in the Library of the House as requested.

GCE A-Level

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average A-level points score per pupil was for secondary schools with sixth forms containing *(a)* 50 or fewer, *(b)* 51 to 100, *(c)* 101 to 150, *(d)* 151 to 200, *(e)* 201 to 250 and *(f)* more than 250 pupils in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205109]

Jim Knight: The information is in the following table:

	Number of pupils studying at A level or equivalent 2006	*Average point score per student in schools of each size* 2007
50 or fewer	632.9	645.4
51 to 100	746.5	758.1
101 to 150	810.6	827.1
151 to 200	832.8	848.8
201 to 250	844.3	808.5
More than 250	851.8	867.7

Note:
Figures relate to 16-18 year olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all schools with sixth forms published in the achievement and attainment tables.

Figures for 2004-05 have not been provided as they are not comparable to the figures given for 2005-06 and 2006-07. Up to 2005-06 the UCAS tariff was used to calculate average point scores. However, this did not extend to cover the new range of qualifications now included as equivalencies, so the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) developed a tariff to calculate point scores for all Level 3 qualifications approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act (2000).

Higher Civil Servants

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of his Department's and its predecessors' senior civil service staff had flexible working arrangements in each year since 1997. [200557]

Kevin Brennan: Flexi-time working arrangements do not apply to senior civil service staff. However, they can work flexibly in terms of working patterns and working from home.

Data are only held on my Department and not predecessor departments. Currently, there around 11 per cent. of senior civil service staff (12 out of 114) who work part-time and a number also work from home occasionally through remote access to our IT systems. Information on home working is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Nursery Schools

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pages of guidance his Department and its predecessors sent to nursery school headteachers in each of the last 10 years. [201852]

Kevin Brennan: Maintained nursery schools have received a wide range of statutory and non statutory guidance over the last 10 years. Statistical data on the number of pages included in these documents are not normally collected and would be possible to find out only at disproportionate costs.

The number of documents sent to all primary schools which would also have been sent to maintained nursery schools is detailed in the following table. The Department stopped sending regular paper mailings to schools in December 2004 replacing it with a regular fortnightly e-mail which allows schools to order the required numbers of documents at their discretion.

Guidance notes issued to primary schools

	Primary
1997-98	86
1998-99	96
1999-2000	146
2000-01	47
2001-02	55
2002-03	39
2003-04	31
2004-05	0

Pupils: Southend

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were on the roll *(a)* in each secondary school and *(b)* at special schools in Southend in each of the last five years for which information is available; and how many children in Southend with special educational needs attended special schools outside Southend in each year. [205079]

Jim Knight: The information on the number of pupils in *(a)* each secondary school and *(b)* special schools has been placed in the House Library.

The number of pupils with special educational needs who are resident in Southend on Sea local authority but attend special schools outside Southend on Sea local authority has been provided in this answer.

Number of pupils with special educational needs who are resident in Southend on Sea local authority but attend special schools outside Southend on Sea local authority: Position in January each year 2004 to 2008 (provisional). Southend on Sea local authority

	Number of pupils
2004	29
2005	30
2006	37
2007	30
2008[1]	29

[1] 2008 are data provisional.

Note:
Figures on the number of pupils resident in Southend on Sea local authority with special educational needs (SEN) who attend special schools outside Southend on Sea local authority include boarders. SEN includes school action, school action plus and statement of SEN.

Source:
School Census

Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1] January 2003. Southend local authority

URN	LEA number	Estab number	School name	Headcount of pupils
115210	882	4034	Shoeburyness High School	1,448
115234	882	4492	Prittlewell Technology College	948
115317	882	5401	Westcliff High School for Boys	1,016
115330	882	5414	The Eastwood School (11-18)	794
115339	882	5423	Westcliff High School for Girls	1,012
115344	882	5428	Southend High School for Girls	936
115346	882	5430	The Thorpe Bay School	602
115350	882	5434	Belfairs High School	1,217
115362	882	5446	Southend High School for Boys	888
115363	882	5447	St. Thomas More High School for Boys	872
115368	882	5452	Cecil Jones High School	1,476
115381	882	5465	St. Bernard's High School	815
115385	882	5950	The St. Christopher School	136
115442	882	7001	Kingsdown School	105
115443	882	7003	Priory School	39
115444	882	7004	St. Nicholas School	96
115445	882	7005	Lancaster School	105

[1] Excluded dually registered pupils

Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1] January 2004. Southend local authority

URN	LEA number	Estab number	School name	Headcount of pupils
115210	882	4034	Shoeburyness High School	1,490
115234	882	4492	Prittlewell Technology College	938
115317	882	5401	Westcliff High School for Boys	994
115330	882	5414	The Eastwood School (11-18)	860
115339	882	5423	Westcliff High School for Girls	1,031
115344	882	5428	Southend High School for Girls	953
115346	882	5430	The Thorpe Bay School	584
115350	882	5434	Belfairs High School	1,227
115362	882	5446	Southend High School for Boys	888
115363	882	5447	St. Thomas More High School for Boys	922
115368	882	5452	Cecil Jones High School	1,493
115381	882	5465	St. Bernard's High School	825

Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1] January 2004. Southend local authority

URN	LEA number	Estab number	School name	Headcount of pupils
115385	882	5950	The St. Christopher School	142
115442	882	7001	Kingsdown School	98
115443	882	7003	Priory School	41
115444	882	7004	St. Nicholas School	96
115445	882	7005	Lancaster School	96

[1] Excluded dually registered pupils

Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1] January 2005. Southend local authority

Urn	LEA number	Estab number	School name	Headcount of pupils
115210	882	4034	Shoeburyness High School	1,510
115234	882	4492	Prittlewell Technology College	917
115317	882	5401	Westcliff High School for Boys	985
115330	882	5414	The Eastwood School (11-18)	922
115339	882	5423	Westcliff High School for Girls	1,032
115344	882	5428	Southend High School for Girls	967
115346	882	5430	The Thorpe Bay School	578
115350	882	5434	Belfairs High School	1,243
115362	882	5446	Southend High School for Boys	914
115363	882	5447	St. Thomas More High School for Boys	941
115368	882	5452	Cecil Jones High School	1,532
115381	882	5465	St. Bernard's High School	869
115385	882	5950	The St. Christopher School	152
115442	882	7001	Kingsdown School	84
115443	882	7003	Priory School	40
115444	882	7004	St. Nicholas School	94
115445	882	7005	Lancaster School	96

[1] Excluded dually registered pupils

Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1]: January 2006. Southend local authority

Urn	LEA number	Estab number	School name	Headcount of pupils
115210	882	4034	Shoeburyness High School	1,548
115234	882	4492	Prittlewell Technology College	901
115317	882	5401	Westcliff High School for Boys	1,000
115330	882	5414	The Eastwood School (11-18)	966
115339	882	5423	Westcliff High School for Girls	1,028

Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1]: January 2006. Southend local authority

Urn	LEA number	Estab number	School name	Headcount of pupils
115344	882	5428	Southend High School for Girls	995
115346	882	5430	The Thorpe Bay School	565
115350	882	5434	Belfairs High School	1,240
115362	882	5446	Southend High School for Boys	938
115363	882	5447	St. Thomas More High School for Boys	978
115368	882	5452	Cecil Jones High School	1,573
115381	882	5465	St. Bernard's High School	864
115385	882	5950	The St. Christopher School	145
115442	882	7001	Kingsdown School	73
115443	882	7003	Priory School	35
115444	882	7004	St. Nicholas School	93
115445	882	7005	Lancaster School	92

[1] Excluded dually registered pupils.

Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1]: January 2007. Southend local authority

Urn	LEA number	Estab number	School name	Headcount of pupils
115210	882	4034	Shoeburyness High School	1,558
131146	882	4735	Chase High School	890
115317	882	5401	Westcliff High School for Boys	1,018
115330	882	5414	The Eastwood School (11-18)	975
115339	882	5423	Westcliff High School for Girls	1,031
115344	882	5428	Southend High School for Girls	1,016
115346	882	5430	The Thorpe Bay School	541
115350	882	5434	Belfairs High School	1,270
115362	882	5446	Southend High School for Boys	965
115363	882	5447	St. Thomas More High School for Boys	986
115368	882	5452	Cecil Jones High School	1,578
115381	882	5465	St. Bernard's High School	843
115385	882	5950	The St. Christopher School	153
115442	882	7001	Kingsdown School	63
115443	882	7003	Priory School	32
115444	882	7004	St. Nicholas School	85
115445	882	7005	Lancaster School	91

[1] Excluded dually registered pupils.

Maintained secondary schools and all special schools: number (headcount) of pupils[1]: January 2008 (provisional). Southend local authority

Urn	LEA number	Estab number	School name	Headcount of pupils
115210	882	4034	Shoeburyness High School	1,606
131145	882	4735	Chase High School	896
132762	882	4736	Futures College	577
115317	882	5401	Westcliff High School for Boys	1,022
115330	882	5414	The Eastwood School (11-18)	897
115339	882	5423	Westcliff High School for Girls	1,026
115344	882	5428	Southend High School for Girls	1,022
115350	882	5434	Belfairs High School	1,312
115362	882	5446	Southend High School for Boys	985
115363	882	5447	St. Thomas More High School for Boys	994
115368	882	5452	Cecil Jones High School	1,557
115381	882	5465	St. Bernard's High School	868
115385	882	5950	The St. Christopher School	169
115442	882	7001	Kingsdown School	89
115443	882	7003	Priory School	37
115444	882	7004	St. Nicholas School	93
115445	882	7005	Lancaster School	65

[1] Excluded dually registered pupils.

School Meals: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of rising food prices on the cost of schools meals; and if he will make a statement. [202638]

Kevin Brennan: The Government have not made such an assessment.

However, the Government are taking forward a number of steps to help to keep down the price of school meals. We are investing over £650 million between 2005-11 to help raise nutritional standards and keep school lunch prices down. This funding is also being used to help build kitchens in areas with no kitchen facilities; to better support the development of training centres for the school food workforce; and to improve overall take-up.

The School Food Trust is working with manufacturers, caterers and schools to ensure the long term sustainability and efficiency of the country's school food service. They are working with food producers and manufacturers to ensure that the nutrient menus have a minimum effect on the price of school meals as well as working on kitchen efficiencies, including both skilling the workforce and looking at international business models. The Trust has produced

guidance focusing on efficient and sustainable school food procurement. This guidance is being distributed to all schools in April 2008.

The Department is working in close alliance with the Trust and other Departments, to identify opportunities and develop initiatives to further improve efficiencies in procurement. These include price benchmark variance reporting, common food standards and terms and conditions to support local and national competitive tendering, as well as the use of shared contracts from other Departments, where they can be shown to meet the needs of schools.

In response to a survey carried out in January 2008 by the School Food Trust 2008, 68 per cent. of local authorities (LAs) reported that, in principle, their catering service was expected to break even, with 9 per cent. expected to operate at a deficit, and 10 per cent. expected to make a surplus. For the 2007/08 financial year, 44 per cent. of LAs expected their catering service to break even or make a surplus, compared to the 41 per cent. of LAs who achieved this in 2006/07. Similar numbers of LAs expected their financial outcome to improve (15 LAs) as expected it to worsen (14 LAs). The results of the Trust's survey can be found on its website at:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/news_item.asp?NewsId=130

Schools: Procurement

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice his Department has issued to schools on procuring food from small, local producers. [205237]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has not issued any advice to schools on procuring food from small, local producers. However, it asked the School Food Trust to provide advice on food procurement issues to local authorities and schools and the trust has recently published "A fresh look at school food procurement: efficiency and sustainability"—guidance for schools and local authorities on how efficient and sustainable food procurement can be pursued in tandem. It can be viewed on the trust's website at:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/UploadDocs/Library/Documents/sft_fresh_look_procurement_print_friendly.pdf

The guidance actively promotes the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI), which aims to increase tenders from small and local producers and improve their ability to do business. The guide encourages buyers to identify and reduce barriers to small and medium-sized local enterprises (which may prevent them from tendering) and recognises that smaller suppliers can compete with larger businesses. It also recognises that their participation in the public sector supply chain can benefit local and regional economies. The trust's website also contains a number of case studies where local authorities and schools demonstrate how they have successfully tendered for local produce for their meals' service.

In addition, the National Governors Association has recently published a supplement to "Food Policy in Schools—a strategic policy framework for school governing bodies". This advises governors on how to produce whole school policy statements to promote healthy food, and improve sustainability and efficiency in their procurement of food and catering services. Like the trust's guidance, it actively promotes the PSFPI.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were *(a)* classified as having special educational needs, *(b)* given a statement of special educational needs and *(c)* classified as having emotional and behavioural difficulties in each year since 1990, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) local authority. [205077]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) by gender is only available from 2002 onwards.

Information was collected from schools on pupils who are supported at "School Action Plus" and those pupils with statements of SEN about their main or primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need for the first time in 2004.

We publish national level information on the number of pupils identified with SEN, by gender, and with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties at School Action Plus and with statements of SEN annually. From 2004 the figures can be found in the Statistical First Release 'DCSF: Special Educational Needs in England', the latest of which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

Figures for 2003 and earlier were published in the Statistical Bulletin: 'Special Educational Needs in England', which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000429/index.shtml

Equivalent publications are available for earlier years.

We publish a local level analysis for a range of data on SEN, which can be found in the additional tables at the aforementioned websites. A local level analysis of the number of pupils with SEN and those with statements of SEN by gender in each year since 2002 as well as local level figures for the number of pupils with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties in each year since 2004 could only be produced as disproportionate costs.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision will be made for young people in custody to new diploma courses; and if he will make a statement. [205010]

Jim Knight: Every young person aged 14 to 19 will have an entitlement to any of the first 14 Diploma lines from 2013. We have placed a duty on local authorities and the Learning and Skills Council from 2013 to ensure all young people are able to take up their entitlement.

At present young people in custody are required to continue their education in custody and will be covered by the entitlement. Proposals to improve education and training for young offenders will be included in the forthcoming Youth Crime Action Plan.

Sure Start Programme: Consultants

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of those in his Department working on the Sure Start programme are consultants. [205420]

Beverley Hughes: There are no consultants working on the Sure Start programme in the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

JUSTICE

Children: Protection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many special Children Act applications were issued by *(a)* Cambridgeshire county council, *(b)* Cumbria county council, (c) Kent county council and *(d)* Medway council in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08; [204719]

(2) how many special Children Act applications were issued by each local authority in Berkshire in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [204721]

Bridget Prentice: The current information systems used in the family courts do not require the applicant type to be recorded specifically. Consequently to extract this information would require a manual trawl of case files and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The most reliable data on public law Children Act applications, particularly at local level, relate to orders made rather than applications issued. The numbers of care and supervision orders made in the family courts in Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Kent (including Medway) and Berkshire in the requested years are therefore provided in the following table.

National figures for 2006 suggest that between 70 per cent. and 75 per cent. of applications for care or supervision result in either a care order or a supervision order being made. Many of the remaining applications are likely to result in an order of a different type (e.g. 'Section 8' orders for residence or contact).

The data are compiled based on the location of the order-making court, rather than the local authority making the application, as data on the applicant's identity are not held centrally for all cases. These figures may therefore count orders obtained by other applicants besides the local authorities specified in the question.

Children Act 1989: Care and supervision orders made in the family courts in specific areas

	FY 2005-06		FY 2006-07		FY 2007-08	
Courtlarea	*CHC*	*FPC*	*CHC*	*FPC*	*CHC*	*FPC*
Cambridge	34	—	20	—	31	—
Peterborough	58	—	87	—	101	—
Cambridgeshire	92	18	107	16	132	26
Carlisle	27	—	39	—	26	—
Cumbria	27	11	39	24	26	29
Canterbury	80	—	79	—	58	—
Medway	80	—	81	—	110	—
Kent	160	97	160	95	168	75
Milton Keynes	46	—	59	—	66	—
Oxford	46	—	48	—	62	—
Reading	78	—	77	—	116	—
Thames Valley	170	70	184	100	244	91

Notes:
1. CHC = County and High Court; FPC = Family proceedings court.
2. CHC data are collected at court level and do not necessarily reflect counties and their boundaries.
3. FPC data are not available at court level.
4. FPC data for Berkshire are not available as standalone figures. Figures displayed are for Thames Valley.
5. FPC orders made are recorded per child while CHC orders are recorded per order.

Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of people *(a)* tried for and *(b)* convicted of domestic violence offences took part in domestic violence perpetrators' programmes in the last 12 months; what targets there are for levels of participation in such programmes in each probation area; and if he will make a statement. [204637]

Mr. Hanson: There is no statutory offence of domestic violence. All 42 probation areas provide domestic violence programmes. The targets for offenders completing domestic violence programmes in 2008-09 are set out in the table as follows.

Area	*Target*
Avon and Somerset	80
Bedfordshire	10
Cambridgeshire	32
Cheshire	43
County Durham	20
Cumbria	10
Derbyshire	40
Devon and Cornwall	70
Dorset	20
Dyfed Powys	14
Essex	66
Gloucestershire	21
Greater Manchester	130
Gwent	12
Hampshire	100
Hertfordshire	25
Humberside	50
Kent	50
Lancashire	60
Leicestershire	30
Lincolnshire	42
London area	300
Merseyside	113
Norfolk	40
North Wales	20
North Yorkshire	30
Northamptonshire	30
Northumbria	65
Nottinghamshire	30
South Wales	20
South Yorkshire	72

Area	Target
Staffordshire	36
Suffolk	25
Surrey	22
Sussex	40
Teesside	35
Thames Valley	95
Warwickshire	4
West Mercia	15
West Midlands	25
West Yorkshire	175
Wiltshire	25

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* under 25 years and *(b)* 25 years and over with a full UK driving licence in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK were convicted of driving without insurance in each year since 1997. [204911]

Maria Eagle: Information held centrally by my Department on convictions for motoring offences does not identify whether the offender held a UK or other driving licence (full or provisional). Possession of a licence can only be inferred through the nature of specific offences such as driving while disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence or failing to produce driving licence etc. Information is available at police force area level within England and Wales only.

Electoral Register: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for the Co-ordinated Online Record of Electors database is for each of the next three years. [203136]

Bridget Prentice: The total budget allocated to the Co-ordinated Online Record of Electors (CORE) project during the current spending round is £11.7 million, which consists of £9.7 million capital and £2 million non-capital.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Co-ordinated Online Record of Electors' database is intended to include electors in Northern Ireland. [203138]

Bridget Prentice: The legislation that sets out the scope of the Co-ordinated On-line Record of Electors (CORE) database allows for the inclusion of electors from Northern Ireland. A final decision on the inclusion of Northern Ireland in the CORE project will be made at the end of this year. In order to inform this decision a consultation with stakeholders will take place during the second part of this year.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what process his Department will use to determine who the keeper of the Co-ordinated Online Record of Electors will be; and if he will invite bids from the public and private sector for this role. [203140]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 Chapter 22, Part 1 states at Section 1 (10) 'The person designated as a CORE keeper must be a public authority'. The Electoral Commission is our preferred choice to fulfil this role, and discussions are ongoing with them on this matter.

Electronic Government: Finance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1985W, on electronic government: finance, when he plans to make detailed allocations of funding for e-democracy and e-participation projects in the next three years; and what criteria will be used to make those allocations. [204605]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice keeps the allocation of funding for projects that promote e-democracy under continuous review. Precise criteria are yet to be finalised, but funding decisions will take account of the degree to which projects encourage innovative approaches to online engagement and embed learning from the government's online engagement experiences.

We are also in the process of reviewing the lessons we have learnt from previous electronic voting pilots. This will help us to plan our future activities around electronic voting.

Legal Advice and Assistance: Travelling People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding was allocated to legal advice for Travellers in 2007-08 by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Legal Services Commission (i) directly and (ii) in the form of grants to external organisations in 2007-08. [203143]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice does not directly fund external organisations to provide legal advice to Travellers.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) contracts with the Community Law Partnership to provide a helpline for Travellers offering advice on a range of matters. The Travellers' telephone helpline receives funding each year contingent upon the contract holder, the Community Law Partnership, delivering 1,100 hours of work per year. The service has been established since 2004 and forms part of the LSC's national telephone helpline, Community Legal Advice. In 2007-08 the contract for this helpline was worth £56,540 excluding VAT.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice authorised the LSC to fund a total sum of £31,400 for legal advice and representation for Travellers through the exceptional funding scheme in 2007-08. This was for legal representation at planning inquiries.

Travellers are also entitled to receive legal aid in other areas of law. However, the LSC does not have readily available information on the number of Travellers who receive such assistance.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Contracts

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the performance of the Probation Service against its target to subcontract 10 per cent. of services to the voluntary sector in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [201826]

Mr. Straw: The target was for probation areas to sub-contract 5 per cent. in value of services to the private and voluntary sectors in 2006-07, rising to 10 per cent. in value of services in 2007-08. In 2006-07 we estimated, based on self-reporting from probation areas, that overall around 4 per cent. of probation budget was spent on sub-contracted services, although performance varied from area to area. Now that the second reporting period has come to an end we are beginning an assessment of performance against target for 2007-08.

As part of the transition from probation boards to probation trusts, we are currently consulting on whether to move towards a system of Best Value similar to that used by local government. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office, and on the internet at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/consultations.htm

We are determined to ensure that the voluntary sector plays an increasing role in the delivery of probation services.

Non-Molestation Orders

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have applied for non-molestation orders in each of the last 10 years. [205384]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the number of applications for non-molestation orders in county courts in England and Wales by calendar year.

	Number of applications
1998	18,153
1999	16,908
2000	15,734
2001[1]	17,590
2002	19,131
2003	18,718
2004	17,594
2005	17,354
2006	16,937
2007[2]	[3]16,033

[1] Years 1998 to 2001 are taken from manual returns.
[2] Years 2002 to 2007 are taken from the FamilyMan IT system after it was introduced.
[3] Provisional but unlikely to change.

Personal Injury

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the Government's response to the consultation on the reform of legal processes relating to personal injury law. [204718]

Bridget Prentice: The response to the consultation paper 'Case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims' is nearing completion and will be published as soon as possible.

Peterborough Prison: Drugs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the adequacy of the *(a)* number and *(b)* frequency of mandatory drug tests at HMP Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [204515]

Maria Eagle: The number and frequency of mandatory drugs tests at HMP Peterborough in 2007-08 are detailed in the following table:

Number of mandatory drug tests

	Male	*Female*
2007		
April	85	84
May	88	73
June	89	59
July	84	65
August	94	60
September	96	71
October	92	64
November	93	63
December	94	75
2008		
January	103	78
February	91	73
March	94	69
Total	1,103	834
Frequency (average)	92 tests per month	70 tests per month

Prison Service: Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prison officers, *(b)* prisoners and *(c)* prisoners per prison officer there were at the end of each year since 1997. [204481]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of officer grade staff, prisoners and the number of prisoners per officer across the Prison Service, including both public sector and contracted estates is contained in the following table:

Officers, prisoners and prisoner to officer ratio

31 March	*Officers*[1, 4]	*Prisoners*[2]	*Prisoners per officer*[3]
1997	23,058	56,671	2.4
1998	23,444	63,373	2.5
1999	24,113	65,346	2.5
2000	24,346	65,153	2.5
2001	24,023	64,680	2.5
2002	23,324	67,633	2.7
2003	23,842	71,498	2.7
2004	25,664	73,658	2.8
2005	26,480	74,808	2.8
2006	26,935	76,564	2.8
2007	27,346	78,880	2.9
2008	28,062	80,676	2.9

[1] Includes prison officers, senior officers and principal officers within the public sector Prison Service and custody officers and senior custody officers within contracted establishments, where available.
[2] Average prisoner population across the year has been used, 2007-08 figure is provisional.
[3] Prisoners held at contracted establishments where officer numbers are not available have been excluded from the calculation.
[4] Data for Lowdham Grange prior to March 2005 and Rye Hill prior to 2006 are not available due to archiving and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. Data prior to 2004 are available only for one establishment, Parc, and information prior to 1999 is not available and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Recruitment

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken by his Department to improve the recruitment and retention of staff to HM Prison Service. [204285]

Maria Eagle: In general, retention within the public sector Prison Service is comparatively high. Excluding retirements, the average leaving rate across all grades of staff between April 2007 and March 2008 was 6.3 per cent. This is consistent with the rates for the past seven years.

In areas where recruitment and retention are more difficult, higher starting salaries may be offered. Local pay allowances also operate across much of the south-east of England.

Action has been taken recently to respond to the substantial increase in demand for prison officers, generated in particular by the National Offender Management Service's prison capacity building programme. A national prison officer recruitment campaign started on 7 January. It employed a major national advertising campaign, aimed at attracting a much wider range of applicants than had been achieved previously. It also created a new recruitment process, which reducing the time between application and appointment, introduced online application and sifting; and enabled more comprehensive information to be generated, on which to base selection decisions. Over 40,000 applications have been received to date.

Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his latest estimate is of the number of hours of purposeful activity undertaken by prisoners per week. [204280]

Maria Eagle: The average number of hours of purposeful activity undertaken by prisoners per week during 2007-08 was 25.3 hours. Data are provisional and subject to end year validation.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisoners are former members of the armed services. [205]14]

Mr. Hanson: Data from nationally representative surveys of some 2,000 sentenced prisoners near release in all prisons in England and Wales conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 show the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces as 6 per cent., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

Information relating to prisoners in Scotland and in Northern Ireland is a matter for Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service respectively.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Mental Health

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken on implementing the recommendations of the HM Inspectorate of Prisons report entitled the Mental Health of Prisoners: Thematic, published in October 2007. [204306]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. and learned Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 987W.

The report 'The mental health of prisoners' thematic (HMIP, 2007) made a number of recommendations about improving mental health care in prisons. The Department of Health is preparing its response to all these recommendations.

Prisoners: Pay

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what factors he took into account when deciding to postpone the change to the rates of payment to prisoners. [204673]

Mr. Straw: In determining the timing of any increase in prisoners' pay, Ministers considered that it should be more closely tied to developing work on an offender compact. Postponement of an increase in minimum rates from the original planned date has allowed this to be done more effectively.

Prisons: Television

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the Prison Service was of providing satellite television services in prisons in 2007-08. [202947]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service accounting system does not record expenditure to the level of detail required to answer this question. The Prison Service would incur a disproportionate cost to obtain this information.

Satellite television is not available to prisoners' in-cell but can be made available in association areas at the discretion of the Governor. A number of establishments have been upgraded for digital television in line with the Government's digital switchover programme. The cost of the digital switchover to date, and the costs of the TV sets used in cells, has been met from the revenue generated by the £1 per week TV rental charge paid by prisoners.

TREASURY

Credit Cards: Proof of Identity

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to requiring credit cards to carry a photograph of the person they are issued to. [203859]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

No, we have not considered such a requirement but the industry did look at the viability of putting photographs on credit cards as an additional security method. However, it was deemed to only provide a costly short to medium-term solution. With the introduction of chip and PIN, technology-based methods are now used to verify that the card is not being used fraudulently.

Debts

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average level of household debt and *(b)* average level of household debt as a proportion of income was in each region in each of the last five years; and what forecast he has made of average levels of household debt in each region in each of the next five years. [204581]

Angela Eagle: The Bank of England collects and publishes statistics on household borrowing and household debt. They do not produce estimates for average household debt but latest aggregate figures show UK household debt rising at its lowest rate for eight years. The full Bank of England dataset can be found at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/mfsd/iadb/FromShowColumns.asp?Travel=NIxAZxI1x&FromCategoryList=Yes&NewMeaningId=HS&CategId=5&HighlightCatValueDisplay=Household%20sector

HM Treasury does not produce regional economic forecasts.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204100]

Angela Eagle: In 2006-07, the Treasury paid £14,746.70 to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund which was the cost of offsetting for flights for ministerial and official travel in 2006-07.

We are currently working to calculate emissions from flights for 2007-08 financial year, and will be making a payment to offset these through the GCOF in due course.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department since 1997. [204774]

Angela Eagle: 1,451 statutory instruments were made by the Treasury between 1 January 1997 and 12 May 2008.

Information relating to the number of instruments which were revoked wholly or in part is not available.

Gallaher

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if, following the recent High Court judgement relating to Gallaher and TEL, he will review the evidence presented during the case to assess whether enforcement action for which his Department is responsible should be taken against Gallaher; [205110]

(2) if, following the recent High Court judgement relating to Gallaher and TEL, he will review the four declarations made by Gallaher between 2004 and 2007 under the provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, relating to trading in Iraq, to assess whether enforcement action for which his Department is responsible should be taken. [205111]

Angela Eagle: All information held by HM Revenue and Customs, including information about the affairs of companies, and details of any potential future enforcement action, is subject to the Duty of Confidentiality in the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act (CRCA). Disclosure of information concerning a particular taxpayer would breach this duty.

The Government are committed to tackling tobacco fraud. As a result of the Government's comprehensive Tackling Tobacco Smuggling strategy, the illicit market share for cigarettes, which was predicted to increase to around a third if action had not been taken, has been cut from 21 per cent. in 2000-01 to around 13 per cent. in 2005-06. During that period, seizures by HMRC of genuine cigarettes produced by UK manufacturers have fallen sharply and have made up a progressively smaller share of total seizures. The latest figures are contained in Section 4 Table 8 of the HMRC autumn performance report published in December last year. This decline is an indicator of the positive effect of the actions taken by HMRC under the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling strategy.

Taxation: Food

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on using taxation policy to *(a)* encourage healthy eating and *(b)* influence diets; and if he will make a statement. [204726]

Jane Kennedy: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children were the subject of

payments under the childcare element of the tax credit in each year since the provision was introduced; what the average payment per child was in each such year; what the total expenditure on the childcare element was in each year; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of those eligible who claimed the childcare element in each year. [204643]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

However, table 2.4 of the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Awards" for 2003-04 and 2004-05 and 2005-06, provides information on the number of families benefiting from the childcare element in each year. This includes average help with childcare costs for each family and the increase in annualised entitlement due to the childcare element. This information is provided in the following table.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Increase in annual entitlement through the childcare element (£ million)	613	706	858
Average help with childcare costs per family(per week) (£)	43.58	44.29	48.45

This information can also be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

The same information for 2006-07 is due to be published on May 20 2008.

Welfare Tax Credits: Correspondence

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest version of each tax credit *(a)* form, *(b)* standard award notice and *(c)* standard letter sent to claimants. [204483]

Jane Kennedy: Guidance notes for the tax credits claim form and renewals forms are available on the HM Revenue and Customs website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/forms-leaflets.htm

together with checklists for the award notice.

Award notices are tailored to individual circumstances and individually printed as required rather than existing in a standard format.

HMRC do not have a definitive up to date list of standard letters but estimate that there are currently around 200 letters which are replaced or updated at intervals as HMRC learn more about what information they need to provide to their tax credits customers. It would not be practicable to keep up to date copies of all these items in the House Library.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Casualties

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department received from the US Administration the CD recording of the attack which resulted in the death of Lance Corporal of Horse Matthew Hull; under what conditions the CD was given to the Department; which sections of the Department received copies of the recording; how many copies were received; whether any further copies were made; which individuals have had possession of a copy of the recording; what the security classification was of the recording; and what the consequences of this classification were for its handling and disclosure. [121239]

Des Browne: The handling of the CD recording in question is currently being investigated. I will write to the hon. Member when the investigation is complete and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Des Browne to Liam Fox:

You will recall that I wrote to you on 31 August 2007 about the investigation into the handling of the US cockpit recording of an attack on a UK light tank in Iraq on 28 March 2003. We have now received the Joint Army/RAF investigation report on the unauthorised disclosure of the cockpit recording and I am therefore able to give you a substantive reply to your Parliamentary Question of 20 February 2007 (Official Report, column 601W).

In preparation for the Board of Inquiry into the circumstances of the incident, material was requested from the US authorities including the CD recording. A CD of the cockpit recording was received by the Board of Inquiry from the US authorities on 23 April 2004 via the MOD's Permanent Joint Headquarters. The CD was classified "SECRET- US Government Property - Protect from unauthorized disclosure." This classification is equivalent to the UK Secret protective marking and should have ensured that unauthorised access and disclosure did not occur. As the classification level required the recording of the item in Protective Document Registers this should also have ensured that a proper audit trail was maintained. I regret that the appropriate procedures were not followed.

The investigation found that at least eight copies were made of the CD and used for various purposes including use by the Board of Inquiry, to help with briefing for deploying pilots and forward air controllers, and to assist studies into friendly fire incidents. The sections of the Department which received copies of the CD were HQ LAND, HQ Adjutant General, Air Command and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to identify how many individuals have had possession of a copy of the recording.

As a result of the failings identified, remedial action is being taken. A new security education programme is being introduced as part of a wider security awareness campaign to ensure that those involved in the handling of classified and sensitive material are aware of the rules and procedures to be followed. An instruction on the release of US (and other third country) material during legal proceedings has also been issued to all MOD personnel to remind them of their responsibilities in respect of the secure handling of protectively marked US material, and we are in the process of establishing new arrangements for the management of Boards of Inquiry and Inquests to ensure a more consistent approach across the Department. The US authorities have been informed of the investigation's findings and of the remedial action taken.

I can assure you that I take the protection of classified material, especially that entrusted to us by a close ally, very seriously, and the Permanent Secretary has asked the chain of command to consider whether administrative or disciplinary action against any individual is appropriate in light of the findings of the report.

Armed Forces: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of the defence budget for 2007-08 has been allocated to *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force. [203672]

Des Browne: The budgetary allocations for 2007-08 to Top Level Budget holders which are broadly analogous to the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force can be found in Central Government Supply Estimates 2007-08—Spring Supplementary Estimates (HC273) respectively under the following headings: Fleet; Commander-in-Chief Land Command and Adjutant General and Commander-in-Chief Air. The relevant extract is reproduced as follows:

	Spending in DEL central Government spending			
TLB (as described in spring supplementaries)	*Net total resources (£000)*	*Capital (£000)*	*Non budget net total resources (£000)*	*Total (£000)*
Fleet	2,204,982	3,533	—	2,208,515
Commander in Chief Air Command	2,647,231	991	—	2,648,222
Commander in Chief Land Command	5,729,900	156,467	—	5,886,367
Adjutant General	791,405	-11,827	9,314	788,892
Army (C in C Land + AG)	6,521,305	144,640	9,314	6,675,259

The remainder of the defence budget is allocated to organisations that support the three services. It is not possible to break down their allocations by individual service.

Armed Forces: Medical Services

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration is being given to the use of the SeQual Eclipse Oxygen System in British ambulance systems in theatre. [204606]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no plans to replace the current oxygen system used by battlefield ambulances deployed on operations as this meets our present requirements. However, we do monitor developing technology for future applications.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many consultants in infectious disease and tropical medicine were retained by the British military establishment at the latest date for which figures are available. [200947]

Derek Twigg: Currently the Defence Medical Services have one consultant in infectious disease and one in microbiology/communicable disease control. In addition, there are four medical officers undergoing higher professional training (specialist registrars) in various aspects of infectious disease.

The Army ensures that all its young doctors attend a tropical medicine course which ensures a level of knowledge well above that within the NHS.

The MOD has also introduced funding for the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene which is now taken by most trainees in all branches of internal medicine, giving greatly enhanced skills in this area.

Armed Forces: Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the joint service publications *(a)* JSP 383, *(b)* JSP 398, *(c)* JSP 400 and *(d)* JSP 448. [175419]

Derek Twigg: The information is as follows:

JSP 383: Joint Service Manual on Law of Armed Conflict

This is a commercial publication, published by the Oxford University Press, from whom copies may be obtained. The hardback edition (ISBN-13: 978-0-19-924454-6) was published on 1 July 2004 and is priced at £131.00. A paper back edition (ISBN-13: 978-0-19-928728-4) was published on 28 July 2005 and is priced at £39.95.

For copyright reasons there is no public electronic version. There have been two amendments since the original publication date, and I shall arrange for copies of these amendments to be placed in the Library of the House.

JSP 398: United Kingdom Compendium of national Rules of Engagement

I am withholding this publication as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

JSP 400: Disclosure of Information

This publication is in the course of revision. I shall place a redacted copy in the Library of the House.

JSP 448: Guide to Official Service Residence (OSR) Management & Expenditure

A new version of this publication was issued in February 2008. I shall place a copy of it in the Library of the House.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the joint service publications *(a)* JSP 523, *(b)* JSP 524, *(c)* JSP 532 and (d) JSP 538. [175454]

Derek Twigg: The information is as follows:

JSP 523: "A Reservist's Guide to Employment Issues"

This publication is now out of date and no longer in print. It provides reservists with a basic guide to their rights under employment legislation, and to act as a guide for them in getting the support of their employer for both their training and deployment in the event that they are mobilised. It was first published in March 2003, and has not been amended or changed since. It is currently being re-written to take account of changes and developments in employment law. The new version is expected to be published later in the year. I shall place a copy of the most recent edition in the Library of the House.

JSP 524: Catalogue of Joint Army/RAF, Joint Service, and NATO publications

I shall place a copy of this publication in the Library of the House.

JSP 532: "Guidance for Reservists Returning to Civilian Employment"

This booklet is a guide to explain to a reservist what their rights are when returning from a period of mobilised service, how to protect those rights, and how

to exercise them should the need arise. It was published in 2003 and still in use. It is available via the MOD's SaBRE website:

http://www.sabre.mod.uk/files/pdf/SaBRE_JSP532_publications.pdf

I shall place a copy of this publication in the Library of the House.

JSP 538: Regulation of Nuclear Weapon Issue Programme

I shall place a redacted copy of this publication in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many teachers *(a)* were recruited to and *(b)* left Service Children's Education in each year since 2001. [199491]

Derek Twigg: Due to changes introduced during 2003-04 in respect of the processing and recording of Service Children's Education teacher recruitment I am unable to provide accurate figures for the years 2001-03, without incurring disproportionate cost. I can however confirm that for the years 2004-07 the following teaching staff were recruited and left Service Children's Education:

	Numbers recruited	*Numbers left*
2004	136	84
2005	106	101
2006	72	89
2007	64	90

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Fighting in Built-Up Areas training facilities there are. [204575]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are eight Fighting in Built Up Areas training facilities at the following locations:

Facility	*Area*	*County*
Rype Village	Lydd	Kent
Longmoor Urban Training Complex	Longmoor	Hampshire
Copehill Down	Salisbury Plain	Wiltshire
Caerwent	Chepstow	Glamorgan
Cilieni Village	Sennybridge	Powys
Edingham FIBUA Site	Dalbeattie	Dumfries
Whinney Hill	Catterick	North Yorkshire
Eastmere Village	Stanford TA	Norfolk

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 266W, on armoured fighting vehicles, how many days there were between the first and last shipping dates for the *(a)* Mastiff and *(b)* Bulldog to (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [204556]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is as follows:

Mastiff

Iraq

First shipment 4 December 2006
Final shipment 13 April 2008
496 days.

Afghanistan

First shipment 19 March 2007
Final shipment 9 November 2007
245 days.

Bulldog (only issued to Iraq)

First shipment 9 January 2007
Final shipment 10 May 2007
122 days.

Army: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officer applications were received by the Army in each year since 2001. [204563]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army has received the following officer applications since 2001:

Financial year	*Number*
2001-02	1,893
2002-03	1,984
2003-04	2,265
2004-05	1,795
2005-06	1,913
2006-07	1,845
2007-08	1,473

Bombs

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which UK military engagements in which theatres cluster munitions have been deployed in the last 20 years; and what estimate he has made of the amount of unexploded British ordnance left in each of those theatres. [194426]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: UK forces have employed munitions carrying more than 10 sub-munitions in three operations since 1988: Operation Granby in Kuwait/Iraq in 1991; Operation Agricola in Serbia/Kosovo in 1999; and Operation Telic in Iraq in 2003.

Since then, military and civilian organisations have been engaged in clearing unexploded ordnance used by all parties in these conflicts. It is impracticable to provide an accurate estimate of how much progress has now been made in disposing of unexploded British ordnance originally fired by UK forces that remains in each of these theatres.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK's rapid reaction capability of deploying the Spearhead Land Element in support of the pan-Balkans Ready Battalion Operational Reserve Force to Kosovo. [204568]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is planned that 2 Rifles will deploy to Kosovo as the NATO Operational Reserve Force by 31 May 2008. They will not be deploying as the Spearhead Land Element; 3 Scots will replace them in that role before 31 May 2008. With a variety of force elements remaining assigned to the versatile Joint Rapid Reaction Force pool, the UK retains the ability to respond to both domestic and international contingent commitments.

Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms of reference and objectives issued to those responsible for achieving commodity cluster co-locations of the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency and other commodities at Ensleigh. [203179]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The collocation of the Defence Clothing Integrated Project Team (DC IPT) alongside other elements of the Commodities Cluster is part of the wider DE and S collocation project and supports the strategic intent to achieve business improvements by focusing acquisition related activities at Abbey Wood by 2012. The objectives for this overarching programme are well documented with all moves being conducted to align with this strategic intent. A guide to collocation for team leaders has been developed and outlines the key roles and responsibilities required and the actions to be completed to achieve successful team relocation. I shall place a copy of this document in the Library of the House.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the analysis carried out relating to the setting up of a co-located commodity cluster at Ensleigh; [203180]

(2) if he will place in the Library the study reports commissioned to assess the economics and efficiencies arising from the relocation of the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency from Caversfield to Ensleigh. [203181]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I shall place a copy of the relevant extracts of the internally approved investment appraisal for bringing forward the move of Defence Clothing Integrated Project Team (DC IPT) in the Library of the House. This summarises the analysis undertaken including the assessment of savings associated with the move of the team to collocate with other elements of the commodities cluster in Ensleigh.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the co-located commodity cluster operating from the three sites at Ensleigh, Foxhill and West Moors. [203182]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The collocation of the Commodities Cluster will be in two phases; the first being the merger of medical and general stores at Foxhill in Bath with the collocation of food and clothing at Ensleigh, also in Bath. The second phase will see the Commodities Cluster as a whole (including any appropriate elements from West Moors) forming up at Abbey Wood in 2011. These plans have been assessed as part of the Business Case for relocating DC IPT to Ensleigh, which included a full economic assessment to compare the relocation with retaining posts in their existing locations. This showed a saving of over £50 million compared to retaining the Commodities Cluster in their existing locations.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of relocating the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency from Ensleigh to Abbey Wood by 2012. [203183]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The personnel costs of moving the Defence Clothing Integrated Project Team (DC IPT) from Ensleigh to Abbey Wood will be minimal as the Travel to Work areas of the two sites significantly overlap. There will be some costs associated with moving technical equipment, estimated at about £600,000. The move of DC IPT is part of the wider D E and S Collocation Project which seeks to focus acquisition related activity at Abbey Wood by 2012 and is expected to save at least £200 million over 25 years. The Collocation Project has already successfully moved 1,000 posts directly supporting the Front Line from Andover to Abbey Wood.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what human resources assessment he has made of the *(a)* risk and *(b)* impact upon staff of the proposed sequence of relocation of the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency from (i) Caversfield to Ensleigh and (ii) Ensleigh to Abbey Wood. [203184]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The strategic intent of D E and S to focus acquisition related activities at Abbey Wood by 2012, of which the relocation from Caversfield of Defence Clothing IPT (DC IPT) forms a part, will require the relocation of significant numbers of posts to Bristol. The Project has already successfully moved over 1,000 posts from Andover to Abbey Wood. The risks and potential impacts on staff are therefore well understood and mitigation strategies, which have been proven to be effective, will be put in place for the DC IPT relocation. This includes the provision of direct support to staff and their families, comprehensive and flexible allowance packages and the redeployment and re-training of existing staff in the new location. The impact upon staff of the onward move from Ensleigh to Abbey Wood is expected to be minimal as the Travel to Work areas of the two sites significantly overlap. Staff are therefore expected to move home only once to cover both office moves.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the improvements in service anticipated as a result of the move of the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency to a co-located organisation at Ensleigh. [203185]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: For the Commodities Cluster, of which DC IPT forms part, the collocation to Abbey Wood by 2012 means that it will be possible to adopt a new business model with leaner, more effective processes and supply chain which will be supported by an improved, centralised pool of expertise across the Cluster. The ability to flex resources to meet peak workloads will be enhanced as will access to a wider range of support functions, all available within a single location. This would not be possible if DC IPT were to remain at Caversfield.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the analysis carried out into *(a)* deficiencies and *(b)* changing demands from front line commands relating to the proposed relocation of the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency. [203187]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The strategic intent of DE and S to focus acquisition-related activities at Abbey Wood by 2012, of which the relocation from Caversfield of Defence Clothing IPT (integrated project team) forms a part, will require the relocation of significant number of posts to Bristol The project has already successfully moved over 1,000 posts from Andover to Abbey Wood. Support to operations now and in the future remains paramount. Understanding the requirements of the armed forces and how these could vary is ongoing normal business and conducted using a range of means by any IPT directly supporting the front line and, as such, separate documentation is not available.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the proposed date for the transfer of the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency from Caversfield to Ensleigh has been moved from 2010 to 2009. [203188]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The move of Defence Clothing IPT (DC IPT) from Caversfield is part of a wider DE and S Collocation Project, which aims to focus acquisition-related activities at Abbey Wood by 2012. The project has already successfully moved over 1,000 posts which directly support the front line from Andover to Abbey Wood. The change to the DC IPT move timetable is intended to mitigate the risks to business continuity associated with the original time scale; namely that key skills from the team would potentially have been lost in the run up to the relocation date in 2010. Moving posts sooner will assist in retention of staff and will also facilitate earlier recruitment of staff in the south west.

Defence Estates: Sales

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what property in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Northern Ireland, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England was sold by Defence Estates in each of the last five years; what the division of receipts in respect of each sale was to (i) the Welsh Assembly Government, (ii) the Northern Ireland Executive, (iii) the Scottish Executive and (iv) other budgets other than Defence Estates; and if he will make a statement. [204739]

Derek Twigg: Records of individual property sales broken down by country in each of the last five years are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In line with HM Treasury guidance, receipts retained by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) from the sale of property are reinvested by the Department in key priorities. They form part of the defence budget and are not directly allocated to either devolved administrations or other parts of the MOD.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting have been made in each such year. [204099]

Derek Twigg: Since 2006, the MOD has offset non-operational official and ministerial flights, booked through the Head Office Travel Service, through the Government's Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) managed by EEA Fund Management. For the year 2006-07, the MOD paid the total offsetting cost of £180,599.38 to the GCOF.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205185]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The staff costs of the central MOD team that provides translation and interpreting services was £598,397 for financial year 2007-08. A breakdown of its work by language could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In addition to this amount, the following was spent on centrally contracted-out translation services during FY 2007-08 (by language):

	£
Russian to English	5,325.00
Farsi to English	1,058.00
English to Russian	959.00
English to French	693.00
Czech to English	518.00
English to Welsh	372.00
English to Turkish	227.00
English to Chinese	167.50
English to Arabic	165.50
Somali to English	150.00
French to English	116.50
English to Dari	113.50
Arabic to English	90.00
English to Spanish	75.50
Italian to English	57.50

And the following was spent on centrally contracted-out interpreting services during FY 2007-08 (by language)

	£
French	35,000.31
Nepalese	32,993.98
German	14,175.81
Fijian	9,341.28
Russian	6,124.81
Spanish	5,827.66
Japanese	4,414.83
Chinese	3,458.84
Malaysian	2,896.79
Italian	2,739.19

	£
Turkish	2,499.05
Arabic	1,934.87
Ukrainian	1,466.84
Bulgarian	683.50
Total	123,557.76

Details of services procured outside of these central arrangements, including most translation/interpreting work in theatres of deployed operations, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft: Procurement

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what lessons have been learned from the procurement process for the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA); and what steps will be taken to retain the expertise and experience gained by the FSTA acquisition team for use in future major procurement programmes. [203902]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the successful placement of the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) PFI contract, we are conducting a Learning From Experience exercise to identify relevant lessons arising from this innovative project. The Department aims to employ the skills honed in this acquisition on other projects.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what type of helicopters will support British forces operating in Kosovo. [204571]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: UK forces in Kosovo may draw from helicopter capability provided by other nations as part of the coalition effort should it be required. This is normal practice. The number and type of helicopters used would depend upon the requirements of the particular situation arising during this principally land-based deployment.

Lynx Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average age of the Lynx helicopter fleet will be in 2014. [204562]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Of the current Lynx helicopter fleet that are expected to be in service in 2014 the average age will be 31 years nine months (as at January 2014).

Married Quarters: Sales

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence houses were sold in each of the last 10 years. [160053]

Derek Twigg: Details of the number of service family accommodation (SFA) properties sold in Northern Ireland are not held centrally so will take a little more time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Records of other SFA sold in financial year 1997-98 to 1999-2000 no longer exist. However, SFA properties sold in each financial year since FY 2000-01 are set out as follows:

Financial year	*SFA sold*
2000-01	316
2001-02	250
2002-03	336
2003-04	208
2004-05	62
2005-06	281
2006-07	365

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to David Marshall:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 19 October 2007, (Official Report, column 974W) about the number of Ministry of Defence houses sold in each of the last 10 years in Northern Ireland. I apologise that it has taken so long to reply to you.

I can confirm that the number of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) sold in Northern Ireland during the given period is:

Financial year	*Number of SFA sold*
1997-98	2
1998-99	1
1999-2000	0
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	17
2004-05	86
2005-06	92
2006-07	0
2007-08	127

Please accept my apologies for the lateness of writing but this was due to an administrative error.

Medals: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* veterans' badges and *(b)* Bevin Boys badges have been awarded to people in Warrington North constituency. [203150]

Derek Twigg: Records based on postcodes show that a total of 926 HM Veterans lapel badges and five Bevin Boys Veterans badges have been issued to residents in the Warrington area. It is not possible to identify which applications are specifically from the Warrington North constituency.

Navy: EU Action

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what Royal Navy assets will participate in the EU review of naval forces in Toulon in October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [204564]

Des Browne: There are currently no plans for any Royal Navy assets to participate in any EU review of naval forces in Toulon in October.

RAF Innsworth: NATO Rapid Reaction Corps

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to *(a)* decide on and *(b)*

announce the timetable for the move of HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps to Innsworth in Gloucestershire. [205222]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1604W.

Royal Ordnance Factories

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Royal Ordnance factories closed in each year since 1997; [204570]

(2) how many Royal Ordnance factories there were in each year since 1997. [204591]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In 1987 Royal Ordnance plc was sold to British Aerospace (now BAE Systems plc), with the exception of Royal Ordnance Factory Leeds which had been acquired by Vickers Defence systems in 1986.

Since 1987, MOD has had no responsibility for the former Royal Ordnance Factories and any decision by BAE Systems to rationalise its business by closure or sale of its ordnance factories has been a commercial one for the company.

Sandhurst Foundation: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department provided to the Sandhurst Foundation in each year since 1997. [204573]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Sandhurst Foundation was established in 2004 as the Royal Military Academy's 'Alumni' Association for past and present Army officers who trained at Sandhurst. The Foundation is funded entirely through private sources. Foundation staff do, however, have the use of two surplus offices at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), which are provided with telephones and a single MOD computer.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: Location

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he will take to *(a)* minimise the potential for disruption and *(b)* retain (i) skills and (ii) service levels in relation to the proposed re-location of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency; and if he will make a statement; [204670]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the business case for the re-location of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency; and if he will make a statement; [204676]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department associated with relocating the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency; and if he will make a statement; [204677]

(4) when he plans to make a statement on the proposed relocation of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency. [204678]

Derek Twigg: I will write shortly to the hon. Member regarding my decision about the proposed relocation of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency functions undertaken currently at Innsworth Station.

Warships: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on competitive tendering for *(a)* warship and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary refits; and for what reason only one bidder is being allowed to enter the reverse auction for the refit of HMS Scott. [203199]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* Competition policy for refits and docking periods (upkeeps) for legacy complex warships was suspended in 2006. Since then, the Surface Ship Support Project has been exploring a wide range of support options to deliver sustainable, efficient and affordable support for these vessels.

For Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships, one-off competed contracts are currently placed for upkeep work. However, in order to achieve greater value for money, a Through Life Support Strategy has been developed that will result in contracts being placed based on a five-year maintenance cycle. These contracts are being competed and are due to be placed by late summer 2008.

For HMS Scott's next docking period, a competition was initiated with the expectation that the tendering process would culminate in a reverse auction. Four companies were invited to tender in late 2007, but two subsequently withdrew. Following a full evaluation of the two remaining tenders, only one was compliant. Since at least two compliant tenders are required to proceed with a reverse auction, it is intended to complete the competition process with the remaining tenderer alone.

World War II: Medals

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider issuing a campaign medal to those who served in Bomber Command in the Second World War; and if he will make a statement. [204584]

Derek Twigg: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1042W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright).

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: ICT

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases are being processed manually by the Child Support Agency because of technical problems with the new computer system. [202659]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Susan Park, dated 13 May 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a

substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on leave, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases are currently being processed manually by the Child Support Agency because of technical problems with the new computer system (202659)

The Agency's clerical caseload is currently 36,900 cases which is less than 3% of the total caseload. The latest figures relating to clerical cases are routinely published in the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics in Table 20 and further information on clerical cases is set out in the accompanying notes to the table. The latest copy is available in the House of Commons library or via the internet at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar08.asp

Child Support Agency: Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of telephone calls to the Child Support Agency offices in *(a)* Liverpool, *(b)* Birkenhead, *(c)* Dudley, *(d)* Belfast, *(e)* Falkirk, *(f)* Plymouth and *(g)* Hastings was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [201563]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 25 April 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Susan Park, dated 13 May 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average length of telephone calls to the Child Support Agency offices in *(a)* Liverpool *(b)* Birkenhead *(c)* Dudley *(d)* Belfast *(e)* Falkirk *(f)* Plymouth and *(g)* Hastings was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [201563]

Such information as is available is included in the attached tables. The tables show the average length of call and the average speed to answer the call by Agency office. Information on telephone calls to Agency offices prior to April 2006 is not available.

Further information on the Agency's telephony performance is available in Table 16 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons library or on the internet at the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar08.asp

The Agency has shown significant and sustained improvement in telephony performance under the Operational Improvement Plan. In the year ending March 2008, the Agency received 5,369,000 calls from clients and answered 98% of calls available to be answered, with an average waiting time of twenty seconds.

Average length of call and time taken to answer by Agency office, Belfast, Birkenhead, Dudley, Falkirk

	2006-07	
Centre	*Call duration*	*Time to answer*
Belfast	03:35	00:34
Birkenhead	04:17	00:28
Dudley	04:00	00:30
Falkirk	04:34	00:27
Hastings	04:20	00:35
Plymouth	04:14	00:31
Liverpool	02:39	00:14

	2007-08	
Centre	*Call duration*	*Time to answer*
Belfast	03:36	00:22
Birkenhead	04:07	00:24
Dudley	03:52	00:20
Falkirk	04:20	00:23
Hastings	04:32	00:23
Plymouth	04:01	00:23
Liverpool	02:19	00:12

Notes:

1. Information includes old system (CSCS) and new system (CS2) calls.
2. Average length of call by office is not available prior to April 2006.
3. Average length of call includes inbound talk time and time on hold.
4. Time to answer starts once the call enters a queue and is awaiting a response by a member of staff. New system (CS2) calls enter a queue once the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) process is complete. IVR refers to the automated touch tone part of the process where customers enter their details via the telephone key pad. Once callers have cleared this part of the process, they enter a queue to be answered by a member of staff. There is no IVR process on the old system.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what his Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201743]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has implemented a number of initiatives to reduce energy consumption. Our estate partner, Land Securities Trillium, is incentivised to reduce energy consumption by 2 per cent. per annum as part of a shared savings mechanism.

There has been a comprehensive campaign to encourage energy reductions, covering both technical and "housekeeping" measures across the estate. These include the implementation of automatic ('Smart') meters to provide half-hourly monitoring of consumption, to enable analysis of trends and resolution of any issues the day after they arise, and to improve reporting to staff. Initial estate-wide "spend to save" investments on energy saving devices are nearing completion and further site-specific measures are now under consideration. Figures for 2007-08 are still being gathered, but significant savings are estimated as a result of these initiatives.

Expenditure for the last couple of years is given in the following table:

	£
2005-06	29,623,598
2006-07	32,675,800

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201730]

Mrs. McGuire: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statistics/AndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.Justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 87 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 125, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Departmental ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure that counterfeit routers and counterfeit other hardware are not utilised in his Department's computer networks. [203245]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has its IT services delivered via an infrastructure that is managed by leading IT suppliers. The Department has rigorous procurement policies and processes, to source IT equipment from recognised and trusted suppliers that meet defined supply and security criteria. All components are supplied direct to either BT or EDS from their original manufacturers or their nominated and approved resellers and are individually certified as authentic.

The Department and its suppliers also use rigorous change control procedures which are compliant with recognised industry standards to control installation and change to the IT infrastructure.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were serving on the boards of the non-departmental public bodies which his Department sponsors at the latest date for which figures are available. [203598]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The Cabinet Office publication Public bodies 2007 lists the number of people serving on the boards of public bodies as at 31 March 2007. These figures are broken down by individual Departments. Public bodies 2007 can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the impact of shared spaces on disabled people, with particular regard to visually impaired people. [201690]

James Purnell: I have had no discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on this specific issue. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government is represented on the cross-ministerial group on "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People", which meets regularly under the chairmanship of the Minister for Disabled People.

The Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government have been working together on the issue of shared spaces, and shared surfaces, and have produced guidance: the Manual for Streets, which was published in 2007.

Later this year, the Department for Transport will start a two-year contract to address the issues faced by visually-impaired people in negotiating shared spaces and shared surfaces. The aim is to produce a

comprehensive guidance document outlining various techniques which can be used to help visually-impaired people navigate their way around these environments.

Employment: Disabled

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to measure the effectiveness of specialist disability employment service providers from all sectors working with specific impairment groups, including deaf people, under the *(a)* Pathways to Work, *(b)* Flexible New Deal, *(c)* New Deal for Disabled People, *(d)* Remploy and *(e)* Workstep schemes. [203350]

Mrs. McGuire: All Department for Work and Pensions contracts with employment service providers, including specialist disability employment service providers, contain the performance standards required. Professional contract managers monitor the extent to which these performance standards are met, and address any performance issues through established processes.

Providers of specialist disability employment services are also subject to Ofsted inspection and independent audit.

Remploy's financial and operational performance is regularly reviewed as part of the Department for Work and Pensions' sponsorship role of the company which is a non-departmental public body.

Family Resources Survey

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the next Family Resources Survey will be published. [200063]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* This publication has been delayed because we have introduced additional validation and quality assurance checks of the data set. It will now be published on 2 May 2008. The date of publication has been announced on the National Statistics website, in line with the National Statistics code of practice.

Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many construction industry businesses were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* fined for breaches of health and safety regulations in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [202457]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table shows the number of separate cases taken by HSE[1] against employers or individuals in the construction industry. These cases may include a number of separate charges. If an employer or individual was prosecuted on more than one occasion, these will be counted separately in the table.

Numbers for the Jarrow constituency cannot be separately identified. In the period shown, there were two prosecution cases in South Tyneside. Both were decided in 1996-97, and both resulted in a fine. These two cases related to the same set of circumstances, but separate cases were pursued against the company and a director. The figures for the North East are for the Government Office region. The HSE does not enforce in Northern Ireland, so the national total shown is for Great Britain.

[1] The Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1998 allocate enforcement of health and safety in the construction industry to HSE.

Prosecution cases taken by HSE against employers or individuals in construction (SIC45) 1996-97 to 2006-07

	Year case was decided										
Region	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[1]
North East											
Total	10	9	13	9	9	11	7	16	13	11	17
Of which:											
resulted in fine	8	9	12	8	8	11	7	16	11	10	15
GB											
Total	274	375	370	388	363	299	302	279	266	213	228
Of which:											
resulted in fine	241	332	334	319	327	273	269	246	238	182	186

[1] Provisional

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many construction industry site visits were carried out by Health and Safety Executive inspectors in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [202458]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is not available in the form requested without disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Fishburn Hedges

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what payments *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* the Pension Protection Fund made to Fishburn Hedges in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202271]

Mrs. McGuire: The information available with regard to spend with PR Agency Fishburn Hedges by *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* the Pension Protection Fund is as follows:

(a) The following table sets out the total payments made to Fishburn Hedges by Jobcentre Plus over the last five years. The payments were in respect of various customer focused programmes targeting specific

groups such as lone parents or driving customer outcomes, for example through the Local Employment Partnership scheme.

April to March each year	£
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	[1]—
2005-06	299,902
2006-07	188,000
2007-08	502,808

[1] No contract or spend.

No further spend has been identified and a more detailed breakdown of the programmes would incur a disproportionate cost.

(b) The following table sets out the total payments made to Fishburn Hedges by the Pension Protection Fund over the last five years. The payments were in respect of strategic public affairs and communications advice, including advice on schemes entering compensation and the implementation of the Pension Protection Levies.

April to March each year	£
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	[1]—
2005-06	127,215
2006-07	71,345
2007-08	25,780

[1] No contract or spend.

No further spend has been identified and a more detailed breakdown of the programmes would incur a disproportionate cost.

Jobseekers Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of jobseekers allowance were recorded as having been on holiday in each year since 1997. [203261]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Occupational Health

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the incidence of self-reported work related ill-health in each year since 2004; and what progress is being made towards meeting this element of his Department's Public Service Agreement target 5. [200823]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table sets out the published statistics for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. The provisional figures for 2007-08 will be published in autumn 2008.

Estimated incidence rates of self-reported work-related ill health

	Rate per 100,000 employed in last 12 months		
		95 per cent. C.I.[1]	
	Central	*Lower*	*Upper*
2004-05	1,850	1,730	1,960
2005-06	1,640	1,530	1,750
2006-07	2,090	1,970	2,220

Estimated incidence rates of self-reported work-related ill health

	Rate per 100,000 employed in last 12 months		
		95 per cent. C.I.[1]	
	Central	*Lower*	*Upper*

[1] 95 per cent. confidence interval, the range within which we are 95 per cent. confident that the true value lies in the absence of bias.

The PSA target five is to

"By 2008, improve health and safety outcomes in Great Britain through progressive improvements in the control of risk in the workplace".

The PSA target is measured against six sub-targets, including one for ill health incidence—a 6 per cent. reduction in the 2004-05 baseline. The Health and Safety Executive publishes a statistics progress report annually. The latest report for the period 2006-07 indicates that for ill health and self reported HSE is not on track to meet the PSA target.

Pensioners: Overseas Residence

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of retired UK citizens living in countries in respect of which no uprating of pensions agreement has been made. [205354]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Our records do not differentiate UK citizens from other citizens in receipt of a UK state pension.

The latest estimate of the number of UK state pensions paid to pensioners living in frozen rate countries is approximately 530,000.

Source:

March 2007 Retirement Pension and Widows Benefit administrative data, 5 per cent. sample

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of uprating pensions for retired UK citizens living abroad. [205355]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK state pension is uprated for UK pensioners living overseas where there is a reciprocal social security agreement or a legal requirement to do so.

The latest estimate to bring all frozen rate UK state pensions up to the current rate is around £440 million and this would be an ongoing cost increasing year on year.

Source:

March 2007 Retirement Pension and Widows Benefit administrative data, 5 per cent. sample

Poverty: Disabled

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to include the additional costs of living with disability in official calculations and indicators of poverty. [200403]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* We are committed to tackling all aspects of disability poverty and have already made considerable progress. The number of disabled individuals in households with an income below 60 per cent. of median on an After Housing Cost basis fell by 500,000 in Great Britain

between 1998-99 and 2005-06. On a Before Housing Cost basis the number of disabled individuals in households with an income below 60 per cent. of median fell by around 100,000 over the same period.

In 2005 the Department's report 'Review of existing research on the extra costs of disability'[1] found that all studies conducted to date have concluded that there are extra costs incurred by disabled people. However, measuring these extra costs is conceptually and methodologically difficult and there is disagreement over what constitutes the extra costs disabled people face. As a result the existing evidence supporting estimates of the extra costs of disability varies widely.

In light of these findings the Department has no further work planned in this area at present, but we will continue to keep abreast of developments.

[1] Working Paper No. 21, September 2005:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP21.pdf

Notes:

1. Data are taken from the Households Below Average Income series 2005-06.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000.

3. The definition of disability used by HBAI changed in 2002-03. It is not possible to separate out definitional and real effects. For 1998-99, available data exclude Northern Ireland, therefore changes across Great Britain between 1998-99 and 2005-06 have been presented.

Social Security Benefits: Foreigners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-UK citizens claimed benefits in each year since 1997, broken down by benefit claimed; and how many of them were living in the UK in each case. [203265]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 65W.

UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the compatibility of UK legislation with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [204031]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 8 May 2008:]* I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 28WS—"UN Convention on Disability Rights".

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many accident and emergency staff in England were victims of assault while on duty in each of the last three years; [204381]

(2) how many hospital staff in England were hospitalised as a result of assault while on duty in each of the last three years. [204382]

Ann Keen: Since 2004-05, the NHS Security Management Service has collected information on the number of physical assaults reported against national health service staff in England.

Information on the number of assaults against accident and emergency staff and on how many hospital staff have been hospitalised as a result of assault while on duty is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The numbers of reported physical assaults in acute and foundation trusts in the last three years for which information is available are shown in the following table:

	Number
2004-05	10,758
2005-06	11,100
2006-07	9,685

Accident and Emergency Departments: Diabetes

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital emergency admissions were recorded in England for diabetic ketoacidosis and hypoglycaemic coma in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex, *(c)* type of diabetes and *(d)* primary care trust. [202751]

Ann Keen: Tables showing emergency hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of diabetic ketoacidosis or hypoglycaemic coma between 2002-03 and 2006-07, the latest year for which data is available, broken down by age, gender, type of diabetes and primary care trust, have been placed in the Library.

Arthritis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to collect information on the number of newly diagnosed cases of rheumatoid arthritis; what recent representations he has received on the number of persons with rheumatoid arthritis; and if he will make a statement. [205057]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to collect national information on the number of people newly diagnosed with specific medical conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis. Primary care trust commissioners of national health service services should make commissioning decisions by identifying current needs and anticipating future trends. This includes the gathering of quantitative and quantative information that they require to do this.

We have received representations from individuals asking for information on the number of people with rheumatoid arthritis.

Cancer: Urinary System

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 26th February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1454W, on cancer: urinary

system, (1) when he expects the information submitted by strategic health authorities confirming the position for 31st December 2007 to have been analysed; whether this information is being analysed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS Cancer Action team; and whether the results of this analysis will be published; [201626]

(2) with which strategic health authorities where deadlines are unlikely to be met to ensure recovery plans are in place, his Department's Recovery and Support Unit is liaising; [201627]

(3) which networks in summer 2007 were *(a)* already reporting implementation of the Improving Outcomes Guidance and *(b)* reporting that they were on schedule to implement the Guidance by 31st December 2007. [201628]

Ann Keen: The information submitted by strategic health authorities (SHAs) confirming the position for 31 December 2007 has now been analysed by the cancer action team. There are no plans to publish this analysis.

The recovery and support unit is liaising with six SHAs to ensure recovery plans are in place where deadlines are unlikely to be met. The SHAs concerned are:

East of England;
Yorkshire and the Humber;
South Central;
East Midlands;
West Midlands; and
South east coast.

In summer 2007, the cancer networks reporting implementation of the urological Improving Outcomes Guidance were:

Arden;
Derby and Burton;
Greater Manchester and Cheshire;
Lancashire and South Cumbria;
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland;
Merseyside and Cheshire;
Mount Vernon[1]
North of England;
North Trent;
Pan Birmingham;
Peninsula;
South East London;
South West London; and
Thames Valley.

In summer 2007, the following cancer networks reported that they were on schedule to implement the urological Improving Outcomes Guidance by 31 December 2007 were: -

Anglia;
Avon Somerset and Wiltshire;
Dorset;
Essex;
North East London;
North London;
Sussex;
Three Counties; and
West London.

[1] Mount Vernon's plans were interim and based on a proposed new build at Hatfield. The new build is not now going ahead and implementation of a revised urology Improving Outcome Guidance action plan for Mount Vernon is expected later this year.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence he has assessed on the *(a)* health effects and *(b)* cost-effectiveness of screening the general population for cardiovascular disease. [203932]

Ann Keen: The Department has undertaken modelling work which has confirmed that a universal vascular checks programme for those aged between 40 and 74 years is both cost and clinically effective. It will publish a technical report on the modelling work in summer 2008 which will be the subject of a consultation.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of screening specific high risk populations for cardiovascular disease, with particular reference to people with rheumatoid arthritis; and if he will make a statement. [203933]

Ann Keen: The National Screening Committee recommended that a whole population approach be taken to vascular risk assessment. The Department's subsequent modelling has confirmed that a vascular checks programme, as described in 'Putting Prevention First', would be both clinically and cost effective for those aged between 40 and 74. However, assessment and management of cardiovascular risk of people with conditions that put them at higher risk of cardiovascular disease may be undertaken as part of their overall clinical management where indicated. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department plans to take to assess what services are offered to children and adults who are bedbound or housebound due to the effects of myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome; [203960]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to address the geographical gaps which exist in local specialist services for people with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome; [203961]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to encourage primary care trusts to implement the recommendations of the new guidelines on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome produced in August 2007 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [203964]

Ann Keen: Health professionals are expected to use their clinical judgment taking into account best practice and existing clinical guidelines, including those produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, to provide the most appropriate treatment for the individual living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).

We have made no assessment of the services provided for children and young people.

We have no plans to address any geographical gaps in the provision of local specialist services. Local health bodies have a duty to commission health and social care services to meet the needs of their local population, including those living with CFS/ME.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the average time taken to diagnose myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome. [203963]

Ann Keen: Diagnosis for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis can be prolonged as there is no specific test for this condition, and therefore other diseases with similar symptoms must be ruled out before a diagnosis can be made. The recent guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence provides a list of medical tests that should be used to rule out other conditions.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Young People

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to address the effect on paediatric services for children and young people with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome of the closure of units in Leeds, Stevenage and London. [203971]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to address the effect on paediatric services for children and young people by the closure of these specialist units. Local health bodies have a duty to commission health and social care services to meet the needs of their local population, including those living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Departmental Surveys

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surveys were conducted by *(a)* YouGov, *(b)* ICM, *(c)* Gallup, *(d)* GfK NOP, *(f)* ComRes and *(g)* Opinion Leader Research on behalf of his Department in the financial year 2007-08; and what the cost of each to the public purse was. [204124]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect, centrally, information on surveys it commissions in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced on 1 July 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such future but not retrospective information for the Department.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS doctors of each specialty and grade which will be needed to meet the requirements of the European Working Time Directive in each of the next 10 years. [204224]

Ann Keen: There were 46,783 doctors in training and equivalent grades working in the national health service as of 30 September 2007. This is an increase of 16,470 (54 per cent.) since 1997.

NHS trusts have successfully delivered the current European Working Time Directive (EWTD) requirements. The Department commissioned NHS National Workforce Projects to support local implementation of the final phase of EWTD requirements, namely the 48-hour working week for doctors in training. The solutions developed to support the local NHS do not rely on lots more doctors.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS doctors worked for 48 hours a week or fewer in the latest period for which figures are available. [204530]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of local employers to implement European Working Time Directive (EWTD) as part of their health and safety obligations. The new deal contract monitoring returns give an indication of national health service readiness for fully implementing the EWTD 48-hour week for doctors in training. Monitoring information for 2007 is published on the NHS employers website at:

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-467.cfm.

In 2007, approximately half of doctors in training worked a 48-hour week.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which local authority wards he plans to establish new GP practices as part of his Department's programme to provide greater GP provision in those primary care trusts with the poorest provision. [203445]

Mr. Bradshaw: Those primary care trusts with poorest provision are currently engaging with their stakeholders, including local patients and clinicians, through their local consultations to determine the precise locations of these new services. Information on these PCTs is shown in the following table.

Primary care trust (PCT)	*Strategic health authority (SHA)*
Manchester PCT	North West SHA
Barking and Dagenham PCT	London SHA
Knowsley PCT	North West SHA
Sandwell PCT	West Midlands SHA
Wolverhampton City PCT	West Midlands SHA
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	North West SHA
Liverpool PCT	North West SHA
Sunderland Teaching PCT	North East SHA
Birmingham East and North PCT	West Midlands SHA
Halton and St. Helens PCT	North West SHA
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	West Midlands SHA
Barnsley PCT	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA
Leicester City PCT	East Midlands SHA
Oldham PCT	North West SHA
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	North West SHA
Stoke on Trent PCT	West Midlands SHA

Primary care trust (PCT)	*Strategic health authority (SHA)*
Hounslow PCT	London SHA
Hull PCT	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA
Nottingham City PCT	East Midlands SHA
Blackpool PCT	North West SHA
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	North West SHA
Dudley PCT	West Midlands SHA
Bolton PCT	North West SHA
Greenwich Teaching PCT	London SHA
Sefton PCT	North West SHA
Medway Teaching PCT	South East Coast SHA
Salford PCT	North West SHA
Hartlepool PCT	North East SHA
Tameside and Glossop PCT	North West SHA
Walsall Teaching PCT	West Midlands SHA
Newcastle PCT	North East SHA
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	North East SHA
South Tyneside PCT	North East SHA
Calderdale PCT	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA
North Lancashire PCT	North West SHA
Luton Teaching PCT	East of England SHA
Havering PCT	London SHA
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	London SHA
Rotherham PCT	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA
Enfield PCT	London SHA
Bury PCT	North West SHA
South Birmingham PCT	West Midlands SHA
Telford and Wrekin PCT	West Midlands SHA
Newham PCT	London SHA
Gateshead PCT	North East SHA
Coventry Teaching PCT	West Midlands SHA
Bristol PCT	South West SHA
North Somerset PCT	South West SHA
Middlesbrough PCT	North East SHA
East Lancashire PCT	North West SHA

Health Professions: Occupational Health

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to promote well-being among healthcare professionals and support staff since 1997. [204551]

Ann Keen: The Government have done a good deal to promote well-being among health care professionals and support staff since 1997. This includes: Improving Working Lives (2000) and Practice Plus (2001); NHS Plus (2001), providing occupational health to NHS staff; the NHS Employers' reference guide to staff well-being, the Healthy Workplaces Handbook (October 2007); NHS Health and Well-being pilots and 'Health for Health professionals' pilots (2008). In addition, a number of primary care trusts (PCTs) took part in both the recent departmental sponsored investors in People Health and Well-being at Work and British Health Foundation Well@Work pilots.

For the future, the Government will be responding later in the year to the proposals in Professor Dame Carol Black's, the National Director for Health and Work's Review of the health of the working age, "Working for a healthier tomorrow" (March 2008) to make all work places healthier. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Health Professions: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he and his officials have had with European counterparts on the European Working Time Directive in each of the last 10 years. [204225]

Ann Keen: Over the last decade, there have been many discussions within Europe at both Ministerial and official level about impact of the SiMAP and Jaeger Judgments and retention of the opt-out.

The Government will continue to try to secure an acceptable agreement with member states and the European Commission on the European Working Time Directive.

Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to ensure high standards of health care services during night-time hours since 1997. [204550]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have listened to the issues that are important to the public in relation to health care services at night-time and delivered real improvements to availability and standards of services. Improvements have included:

the introduction of NHS Direct giving people a means of accessing health advice at any time and where necessary being supported to access appropriate treatment;

improved availability of out of hours pharmacy services. The Pharmacy White Paper, published in April, sets out ways in which urgent access to medicines can be further improved;

allowing general practitioners to transfer responsibility for providing out of hours services to primary care trusts (PCTs). This has given PCTs the legal responsibility and opportunity to ensure that everyone has access to consistently high quality and responsive out of hours service; and

a guide to risk-assessing hospitals at night to help ensure that hospital at night solutions are designed and implemented to provide safer patient care was jointly published by the National Patient Safety Agency and Modernisation Agency.

In addition to the service improvements that have taken place over the last 10 years, there has been a focus on assessing performance which has looked not only at service availability but also the quality of those services. In 2004 the Department published, "Standards for Better Health (National Standards Local Health and Social Care Standards and Planning Framework 2005-06—2007-08)" setting out the level of quality all organisations providing national health service care are expected to meet or aspire to across the NHS in England. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

The current performance assessment model carried out by the independent regulator, the Healthcare Commission, includes the core standards i.e. the minimum level of quality that health care services are expected to meet. Each year, the Healthcare Commission produces the Annual Health Check detailing the outcome of this performance assessment. The Commission also regulates independent health care providers.

Health Services: Overseas Residence

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effect of the implementation of the Working Time Directive in other EU member states on the ability of UK citizens to access healthcare of equal quality in those states. [204514]

Ann Keen: No. This is not part of the United Kingdom Government's responsibility.

Hospital Wards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the take-up rate by NHS trusts in England of the NHS Institute's Productive Ward implementation modules launched in January. [204269]

Ann Keen: No assessment has been carried out centrally. It is for local national health service trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities to implement the productive ward programme in accordance with local needs.

Hospitals: Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the requirement for a junior doctor to reside in accommodation supplied by the hospital approved for training was ended in April 2007; and what discussions he has had with the NHS Confederation and individual trusts on putting alternative arrangements in place. [205012]

Ann Keen: Changes to the Medical Act 1983 made in August 2007 remove the requirement for pre-registration doctors to be employed in a 'residential medical capacity'. This represents an improvement in their conditions of service and reflects the reduction in their working hours. As the statutory requirement to be resident no longer exists, these doctors will need to make the same arrangements as other national health service staff.

This issue was considered by the independent Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB) in their 2008 report following evidence submitted by the British Medical Association, NHS Employers (part of the NHS Confederation) and the United Kingdom Health Departments. The DDRB concluded

"...we consider it entirely appropriate that junior doctors are treated in exactly the same way as other NHS staff."

Copies of the "Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, 37th report, 2008" are available in the Library.

Kernicterus

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1285W, on kernicterus, (1) when the Department plans to consider whether additional information should be added to the Pregnancy Book; [204231]

(2) how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* morbidities from kernicterus there were in the last 10 years, broken down by (i) maternity unit and (ii) ethnicity; [204230]

(3) with reference to the answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2045W, on the Pregnancy Book, what options are under consideration for the future of the Pregnancy Book, contingent on the outcome of the review. [204513]

Ann Keen: We do not hold statistics centrally in the form requested. However, the number of admissions to hospital for which kernicterus was given as the main cause are shown in the following table. This is not, of course, likely to give a complete picture of morbidity since other causes of admission, such as jaundice, may be recorded instead.

National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS, count of hospital admissions where the primary diagnosis was Kernicterus

	Admissions
2006-07	8
2005-06	3
2004-05	7
2003-04	3
2002-03	7
2001-02	0
2000-01	2
1999-2000	2
1998-99	5
1997-98	3

We are currently considering changes to the content of future editions of the Pregnancy Book.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 271W, on the Pregnancy Book, (1) whether standardisation of total serum bilirubin measurements has been accomplished; whether the cases of kernicterus reported to the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit have been analysed with a root cause analysis; whether a system of mandatory reporting of elevated bilirubin levels has been established; and what arrangements have been made for ready access to transcutaneous bilirubin and total serum bilirubin measurements among in-patients and out-patients; [204232]

(2) with reference to the answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2045W, on the Pregnancy Book, if he will place in the Library the results of the work which was commissioned to complete the review. [204233]

Ann Keen: British Paediatric Surveillance Unit data formed the basis of a 'Prospective Surveillance Study of Severe Byperbilirubinaemia in the Newborn in the UK and Ireland' (Donal Manning, et al Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed 2007; 992:342-346). Copies of this study have been placed in the Library.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently developing guidance on the recognition and treatment of neonatal jaundice and recently carried out a consultation on the scope of the guideline. NICE expects to issue the guideline in early 2010.

The UK National Screening Committee will consider action on the report when the scope of the NICE guideline is finalised.

Magnetic Resonance Imagers

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government has to increase the number of magnetic resonance imaging scanners in the NHS. [202932]

Ann Keen: The acquisition of imaging equipment such as magnetic resonance imaging scanners is a local matter and individual national health service trusts should base decisions on local needs and the existing capacity they have to meet those needs.

Medical Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the procedure is for patients to choose not to have a summary care record; and what steps general practitioners have to take to put that choice into effect. [204219]

Mr. Bradshaw: Currently, patients who do not want a summary care record (SCR) are advised to make their wishes known to their general practice. Guidance has been issued to all general practices entitled "Guidance On Managing Requests For No Summary Care Record During The Period Of The Early Adopter Programme" on how they should respond to patients' inquiries about their options in relation to SCR, including to those patients who have decided not to have a SCR. Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Library and are also available at:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/nhscrs/publications/staff/gpguidance.pdf

The essence of the guidance is that practices should ensure patients fully understand the implications of their decision, and that a record is kept to that effect, signed both by the patient, and on behalf of the practice.

SCRs cannot be created without the agreement and co-operation of general practitioners, who are currently the data controllers for the records from which the relevant data will be uploaded. The Department can only recommend that practices follow its advice in line with the guidance.

These and other practical aspects of how patients are able to exercise the choices they have in relation to the SCR will be among the key issues to be reviewed by the summary care record advisory group in light of the recently published independent evaluation of the SCR Early Adopters Programme in order to inform the future roll-out of the SCR.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 206W, on medical records: databases, for what reasons Connecting for Health cannot comment on the specific monitoring processes; and what estimate he has made of the likely number of alerts *(a)* per day and *(b)* each Caldicott Guardian will be able to monitor. [204222]

Mr. Bradshaw: Systems delivered by NHS Connecting for Health will provide the alert data and tools for reviewing alerts, but detailed monitoring arrangements and assessment of follow up actions are the responsibility of local national health service organisations and individual Caldicott Guardians.

Staff who breach patient confidentiality are subject to disciplinary measures and the legal penalties provided under the Data Protection Act, and professional staff risk losing their licence to practice. There is no evidence that breaches currently happen other than very exceptionally. We expect this to continue to be the case when systems are deployed that have the ability to audit behaviour.

Only a small number of alerts are therefore expected, and we anticipate that Caldicott Guardians, or their delegated representatives, will be able to monitor all alerts raised to them.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 206W, on medical records: databases (1) under what terms and conditions suppliers will have access; [204223]

(2) which NHS suppliers will have access to the secondary users service; and what terms and conditions will govern such access. [204543]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* The terms and conditions are being agreed but include, for example, limitations on the disclosure of data to third parties and the copying of data, and termination and liability clauses in the event of unauthorised disclosure of personally-identifiable information. There will also be a right of audit to verify adherence to the terms and conditions, which will be the key condition determining permission to access for those wishing to use the service.

When finalised, the terms and conditions will be published.

Medicine: Education

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of medical students studying in English medical schools in England gained entry from *(a)* British and *(b)* overseas schools in the latest period for which figures are available. [203919]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information. However, data on the normal place of residency of students are collected by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The latest provisional figures for student intakes into English medical schools in the academic year 2007-08 show that of the total 6,292 student intakes, 89 per cent. are normally resident in Great Britain and the remaining 11 per cent. are normally resident overseas (including in Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Confirmed figures from the previous three years show that the corresponding percentage of intakes normally resident in Great Britain was 90 per cent.

Source:

Higher Education Funding Council for England Annual Medical and Dental Students Survey

Mental Health Services: Prisons

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on recommendations 1.39, 1.42 and 1.44 of the HM Inspectorate of Prisons report entitled The Mental Health of Prisoners Thematic, published in October 2007. [204267]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The report, The Mental Health of Prisoners Thematic (HMIP, 2007) made a number of recommendations about improving mental health care in prisons. The Department of Health is preparing its response to all these recommendations.

I meet regularly with ministerial colleagues at the Ministry of Justice to discuss matters relating to mental health in prisons. In December 2007, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice invited my noble Friend Lord Bradley of Withington to carry out a review into diverting more offenders with severe mental health problems away from prison into more appropriate accommodation, (5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1703-6). Lord Bradley will report jointly to the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice.

NHS: Complaints

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has held with the National Audit Office on progress on its examination of plans to develop a comprehensive single complaints system across health and social care by 2009. [204275]

Ann Keen: The National Audit Office (NAO) has recently undertaken an evaluation of existing performance, capability, capacity and costs of complaints handling in both health and adult social care.

In discussion between the NAO and the Department of Health about its remit for this evaluation, it was agreed that one of the objectives should be to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the current complaints systems and identify the challenges and risks that will need to be managed in developing a comprehensive single complaints system across health and social care. The NAO is due to produce the report of its evaluation in summer 2008.

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were reviewed by the Healthcare Commission relating to health care services in Wirral during 2007. [204938]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand from the Healthcare Commission that the information is not available in the form requested, the Commission records complaints by service provider rather than by geographical or local authority area. Information about the number of complaints involving the three main NHS organisations responsible for health care in Wirral reviewed in 2007 is set out as follows:

	Number
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust	8
Wirral Hospitals NHS Trust	35
Wirral PCT	9

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust provides services both in and outside Wirral and is now Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Wirral Hospitals NHS Trust is now Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

NHS: Hanover Communications

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the *(a)* NHS Cancer Screening Programme and *(b)* NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme made to Hanover Communications in each of the last five years; and on what dates and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202298]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally—details of individual sub-contractual payments are held by the individual national health service body.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 26W, on NHS: ICT, what the timetable is to which the answer refers. [204072]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for South Norfolk (Mr. Bacon) on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 475-77W.

NHS: Identity Cards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 439W, on the European Health Insurance Card, if he will place in the Library minutes of discussions of the potential costs and benefits of the proposed national health service card with the NHS Connecting for Health National Programme for IT; and what his policy is on whether to introduce an NHS card. [202327]

Mr. Bradshaw: A number of discussions took place in the course of developing policy advice to Ministers on the possible costs and benefits of an national health service card. The Government do not disclose details of internal policy deliberations. There are no current plans to introduce an NHS card.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the policy of the NHS Litigation Authority is in respect of defending clinical negligence claims funded by *(a)* conditional fee agreements and *(b)* legal aid. [205368]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) is responsible for handling clinical negligence claims made against members of its schemes. It does not have

a policy in respect of defending claims based upon the funding arrangements of the claim. Case managers at the NHSLA make decisions on the defence of each claim based upon the available facts and expert legal and medical opinion. Claimants are not required to report their funding arrangements unless the claim proceeds to court.

NHS: Public Participation

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local authorities have appointed host organisations to set up local involvement networks (LINks); and what steps the Government are taking to ensure that host organisations for LINks will be in place by the September 2008 deadline. [203621]

Ann Keen: The Government do not collect the requested data centrally. However, the Local Government Association, in partnership with the Department has compiled the following information. Local authorities (LAs), when asked when they expected to award a contract to a host organisation for the purpose of setting up a local involvement network (LINk) declared the following (as of 23 April 2008):

42 LAs had awarded a contract prior to 1 April;

22 LAs anticipated awarding a contract by the end of April;

17 LAs anticipated awarding a contract by the end of May;

21 LAs anticipated awarding a contract by the end of June;

17 LAs anticipated awarding a contract by the end of July;

five LAs anticipated awarding a contract by the end of August;

10 LAs anticipated awarding a contract by the end of September; and

three LAs responded with an unspecified deadline but anticipated that they would award a contract by September.

While, these data do not represent a definitive picture as only 137 of the 150 LAs with social services responsibilities responded to the informal poll, we think the findings are encouraging.

The Department issued two guidance documents in August 2007, designed to help LAs get ready for LINks, one of these documents contained a 'model contract' for LAs to use as a reference. This guidance accompanied a one-off payment of £10,000 to each LA to assist them in the procurement process.

Since that time, LINk leads—who are based in LAs—have received monthly bulletins updating them on LINks policy developments and giving them the practical information they need to set up a successful LINk. Further, as part of the programme of support the Department is offering for LINks, expert advisers from the NHS National Centre for Involvement (NCI) have visited LAs to provide help and advice and good practice has been shared more widely at workshops and seminars. The NCI has also produced a compendium of guidance to help support LINks implementation.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department requires NHS trusts to collect in order to monitor compliance with the Working Time Directive. [203441]

Ann Keen: The Department does not require national health service trusts to collect information to monitor compliance with the European Working Time Directive (EWTD). Local NHS trusts are responsible for implementing the EWTD as part of their health and safety obligations.

The Working Time Regulations (WTR) require employers to keep adequate records of working hours and the Department has helped to communicate these regulations through guidance. Guidance on the WTR can be found on the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's website at:

www.berr.gov.uk/employment/employment-legislation/employment-guidance/page28978.html

Orthopaedics: Waiting Lists

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the optimum NHS commissioning strategies needed to achieve the 18 week target for *(a)* orthopaedic and *(b)* rheumatology appointments; and if he will make a statement. [204747]

Ann Keen: The Department has published 40 18-week commissioning pathways covering the highest volume specialties, including orthopaedics and rheumatology. In addition, the Department has published the "Musculoskeletal Services Framework" (MSF) that demonstrates a new model of service to deliver better care, closer to home for the estimated 10 million people in the UK with bone and joint conditions.

The MSF and all commissioning pathways are available from www.18weeks.nhs.uk.

Prostate Cancer Advisory Group

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agendas and *(b)* minutes of each meeting of the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group since its inception. [201948]

Ann Keen: Agendas of the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group (PCAG) have been placed in the Library. The minutes of PCAG meetings record decisions taken by the Group, which constitute advice to Ministers and therefore cannot be published.

Prostate Cancer: Staff

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1476W, on prostate cancer: staff, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the latest reports submitted by strategic health authorities to his Department detailing cancer networks' *(a)* progress in meeting any milestones contained in the Improving Outcomes Guidance on Urological Cancers in the last six months and *(b)* likelihood of meeting future milestones on schedule. [201667]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected. Strategic health authority (SHA) returns to the Department do not detail progress on individual Improving Outcomes Guidance milestones.

However, SHA returns do detail whether cancer networks have met or are on target to meet all IOG milestones. Information from the latest returns along with relevant comments from the returns about cancer networks' progress in implementing the urology IOG are in the following table:

Improving Outcomes Guidance (IOG)—cancer networks, December 2007

Organisation	*Cancer network*	*Milestones met*[1]	*On target*	*Comment 1*	*Comment 2*
East Midlands	Derby-Burton	Yes	Yes	—	—
East Midlands	LNR	Yes	Yes	—	—
East Midlands	Mid Trent	No	No	Urology IOG—Revised IOG compliant pathway signed off by Network Board and relevant CEOs and now implemented. This is based on a joint consultant appointment between Sherwood Forest NHS Trust and Derby.	—
East of England	Essex	No	Yes	—	—
East of England	Mount Vernon	No	Yes	Urology. Following delays to the Hatfield Cancer Centre proposals the NHS EoE has required the network to develop IOG Action Plans to designate IOG-compliant Cancer Centres. These plans will replace previously agreed 'interim' plans with more than one MVCN 'Centre' for each tumour site. The four new plans designating IOG compliant centres, were submitted to the Cancer Action Team in December and formal agreement is awaited.	—
East of England	Anglia	No	Yes	Urology. IOG Action plan identifying IOG Compliant pathways for the population of east Suffolk/catchment population of Ipswich Hospital, following inclusion of this population in the new Anglia Cancer Network. No previous plan submitted for this population. Plan submitted to the Cancer Action in December and formal agreement is awaited. December 2007 milestone for transfer of surgery and SMDT achieved.	—
London	South East London	No	No	—	—
London	North East London Cancer Network	Yes	No	—	—
London	West London Cancer Network	Yes	Yes	—	—
London	North London Cancer Network	Yes	Yes	—	Urology—after significant pressure the Royal Free finally agreed to allow centralisation of open and lacroscopic procedures at UCLH. This started in December and is successful peer review revisit of the specialist MDT took place in January 2008.
London	South West London	Yes	Yes	—	—
North East	North of England cancer Network	No	Yes	—	—

Improving Outcomes Guidance (IOG)—cancer networks, December 2007

Organisation	*Cancer network*	*Milestones met*[1]	*On target*	*Comment 1*	*Comment 2*
North West	Cheshire Cancer Network	No	Yes	Urology—NE of Network has not implemented single site working for either—being led by Chair of Cancer Network.	—
North West	Cumbria and South Lancashire Cancer Network	No	Yes	—	—
North West	Merseyside and Cheshire Cancer Network	Yes	Yes	—	—
South Central	Thames Valley Cancer Network	No	Yes	Urology—Penile non-compliant. Plan to be compliant from 1 February 2008 with RBHT as satellite of UCLH. Proposal should be going to specialist commissioners on 18 January 2008 for sign off.	—
South Central	Central South Coast Cancer Network	No	Yes	—	—
South East Coast	Kent and Medway	No	No	Urology.	—
				(1) Three MDTs now in place; each is compliant in terms of the target for 50 total cystectomy/radical prostatectomy target.	—
				(2) Agreed that there will only be two MDTs; one in East Kent the other in West Kent.	—
				(3) Work plans in place (and submitted to the National Team) outlining the strategy to achieve 2 MDTs.	—
				(4) Decisions on final reconfiguration expected by Mid February 2008.	—
South East Coast	Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	No	Yes	Urology—Following further discussion at Network Policy Board and Tumour Group level the decision has been taken to move to a single specialist centre for bladder and prostate based on the Royal Surrey site in Guildford. However because of the need to develop infrastructure including consultant cover etc. the service will not be fully IOG compliant until April 2010. However, the network is confident that a safe and effective service is being provided in the interim.	—
South East Coast	Sussex	No	No	Urology—Network specialist MDT began in December 2007 on time. Therefore referral guidelines between local and specialist MDTs and clinical guidelines of specialist MDTs have been agreed. Transfer of surgical work has occurred as necessary. Ongoing—Functioning of supraregional MDTs (penile and testicular) to be reviewed, in terms of cases referred, to ensure compliant with IOG. Missed milestones = December 2006—not all clinical guidelines agreed as per quality measures. Now specialist teams in place, to be a priority.	—
South West	Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	No	Yes	—	—

Improving Outcomes Guidance (IOG)—cancer networks, December 2007

Organisation	*Cancer network*	*Milestones met*[1]	*On target*	*Comment 1*	*Comment 2*
South West	Three Counties	No	No	Urology IOG—has been implemented; although the current agreed model for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire will change in 2011 with all urological services moving to a single site at Cheltenham General Hospital. This move is dependent on a earlier capital plan implementation. The Specialist MDT starts to meet weekly in mid-February. There is also a resection centre at Redditch which is part of the Three Counties and Arden Cancer Networks' specialist multidisciplinary teams. Full compliance by Mid February 2008.	—
South West	Dorset	Yes	Yes	—	—
South West	Peninsula	No	Yes	—	—
West Midlands	Arden	No	Yes	While the Urology SMDT was established for the Network in early 2007, there is currently a gap in clinical representation from the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch (part of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust). A further meeting has been arranged for 18 January 2008 in conjunction with Three Counties Cancer Network and the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust to review the timing of the established SMDT in order to facilitate representation from the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch. Thus while the Network is currently mostly compliant we are not fully so in respect of the Worcestershire population at this point in time.	—
West Midlands	Greater Midlands	No	Yes	Urology not implemented. Plan is agreed to have one smdt video conferenced December 2008.	—
West Midlands	Pan Birmingham	No	Yes	—	—
Yorkshire and Humber	Coast	No	Yes	Urology—Centralisation of Radical Prostatectomies outstanding—September 2008	—
Yorkshire and Humber	North Trent Cancer Network	No	Yes	—	—
Yorkshire and Humber	Yorkshire	No	Yes	—	—

[1] Milestones met/on target refers to SHAs overall progress on implementation of all the Improving Outcomes Guidance.

Thrombosis

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many successful clinical negligence claims in relation to venous thromboembolism were made against NHS bodies in each year between 1996 and 2006; [205080]

(2) how much compensation was awarded for venous thromboembolism clinical negligence claims against NHS bodies between 1996 and 2006; and what the average amount of compensation awarded was; [205081]

(3) what the legal costs for NHS bodies were related to venous thromboembolism clinical negligence claims in each year between 1996 and 2006. [205082]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following tables and was provided by the NHS Litigation Authority. The data only cover claims made against national health service trusts, NHS foundation trusts and primary care trusts. Claims may include other injuries that have been compensated, not just those relating to venous thromboembolism. Table 1 shows data relating to successful claims, including the number of claims, total compensation paid, average compensation paid and legal costs paid by defence.

Table 2 shows the data relating to unsuccessful claims, including number of claims and legal costs paid by defence.

Table 1: Number of clinical negligence claims closed with compensation by year of closure where thrombosis/embolism is the injury or deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism or venous thromboembolism is mentioned in the incident details as at 31 March 2008

Year of closure	Number of claims	Compensation paid (£)	Average compensation paid (£)	Defence costs paid (£)
1997-98	4	57,500	14,375	14,581
1998-99	12	333,308	27,776	125,551
1999-2000	29	1,861,402	64,186	343,282
2000-01	15	623,036	41,536	122,365
2001-02	28	2,076,851	74,173	324,743
2002-03	36	1,268,643	35,240	356,205
2003-04	41	1,874,569	45,721	579,001
2004-05	46	3,421,756	74,386	613,826
2005-06	37	1,728,390	46,713	372,555
2006-07	40	2,377,497	59,437	477,964
Total	288	15,622,953	54,246	3,330,070

Table 2: Number of clinical negligence claims closed with nil compensation by year of closure where thrombosis/embolism is the injury or deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism or venous thromboembolism is mentioned in the incident details as at 31 March 2008

Year of closure	Number of claims	Compensation paid (£)	Defence costs paid (£)
1995-96	1	0	0
1996-97	1	0	0
1997-98	1	0	13,095
1998-99	5	0	3,204
1999-2000	7	0	51,196
2000-01	8	0	31,188
2001-02	14	0	99,453
2002-03	44	0	216,352
2003-04	57	0	165,792
2004-05	38	0	107,995
2005-06	35	0	137,582
2006-07	39	0	149,819
Total	250	0	975,674

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in the London Borough of Bexley were arrested for alcohol-related offences in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [204915]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to combat drinking in public places by those under age. [204166]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* The Government take underage drinking very seriously. The National Alcohol Strategy 'Safe.Sensible.Social' published in June 2007, focuses action on three groups most at risk which are 18 to 24 year-old binge drinkers, young people under 18 who drink alcohol, and harmful drinkers whose drinking is damaging their health, often without them realising it.

In the Home Secretary's speech on 6 February 2008, she said that a number of new measures and possible steps would be taken to crack down on crime and antisocial behaviour which is fuelled by alcohol. This includes highlighting the message that it is not acceptable for young people to drink in public places. The Home Secretary also said that she is considering a number of options including making the possession of alcohol by a young person an offence, or possibly involving the parents if alcohol is confiscated from a child. We are currently considering the effectiveness of the current powers and what can be done to help the police use them more effectively.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families will shortly be publishing a Youth Alcohol Action Plan which will build on the toughened enforcement of the underage drinking laws. It will set out the responsibilities of parents and the alcohol industry as well as sending a clear message that young people drinking in public is not acceptable.

Additionally, two confiscation campaigns have taken place recently; one in October 2007 and one in February 2008. The results of the October campaign where 23 out of the 227 Basic Command Units (BCUs) took part, showed that nearly 3,700 litres of alcohol were confiscated from young people during the four week period. The February 2008 campaign involved 165 BCUs where 21,000 litres of alcohol was confiscated during a two week period. Activity in both campaigns focussed on school holidays and weekends when young people were most likely to be engaged in this activity.

Other campaigns include the tackling underage sales of alcohol campaign (TUSAC) which focused on shop keepers who sold alcohol to children. The TUSAC took place between May and July 2007 and demonstrated a new approach to test purchase campaigns by focusing on perceived problem premises identified locally. The results of the latest Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaign (TUSAC) show that it is increasingly difficult for under-18s to purchase alcohol. This is in large part thanks to tougher enforcement by police and trading standards in conjunction with the positive efforts of industry to clamp down on underage sales.

The Government also support schemes that make it easier for retailers to verify, and young people to prove their age. That is why we are working with the British Retail Consortium's Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) which validates the variety of proof of age card

schemes available. This allows card schemes to apply for accreditation under PASS and entitles them to issue cards displaying the PASS holographic logo. This is easily recognisable both to retailers and young people and helps them know that they have a proof of age document which should be accepted. The Government have recently given the Proof of Age Standards Scheme 50,000 in order to assist the PASS Board in raising awareness of the scheme amongst young people and retailers.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in the London Borough of Enfield in each of the last 10 years. [202860]

Mr. Coaker: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available in April 1999. The latest available information on the number of ASBOs issued goes up to 31 December 2006. The available information is shown in the following tables.

ASBO data were available broken down by local authority areas up to December 2005. Data for 2006 are available at criminal justice system (CJS) area level only so data for Greater London have been provided for that period. CJS areas are coterminous with police force areas.

Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, where restrictions were imposed within the London borough of Enfield, by period up to 31 December 2005

	1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000[1]	1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2005
All persons	n/a	—	—	—	2	4	15	21

n/a = Not available.

[1] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000, data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (PFA).

Notes:

1. This local authority area table differs from criminal justice system area (CJSA) tables in that an issuing court can be outside the area in which the restrictions have been imposed. For example, an issuing court may be in Hertfordshire (CJSA) but restrictions apply solely to a local authority area within Greater London.
2. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders 'issued' at all courts in the Greater London CJS area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, April 1999 to December 2006

	1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000[1]	1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2005
All persons	9	19	15	21	139	446	533	359	1,541

[1] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000, data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (PFA).

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Young Offenders

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young offenders have been prosecuted for breach of antisocial behaviour orders in each of the last five years. [201965]

Mr. Coaker: Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice and held on their court proceedings database relates only to those found guilty of breaching an antisocial behaviour order. Hence, data on the number of prosecutions for the offence are not available.

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the Respect Squad since its launch; how many people are employed in the Respect Squad; on how many occasions members of the Respect Squad have made practitioner interventions to provide advice on combating anti-social behaviour; and what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Respect Squad. [203259]

Mr. Coaker: The Respect Squad was launched in the summer of 2006 and established by the then Respect Task Force. Between the summer of 2006 and the end of 2007 the expenditure on the squad, which comprised existing expert practitioners, was £10,000 to cover their expenses. The Respect squad comprised 10 people made up of national recognised practitioners who provided advice and assistance for local partners in relation to complex cases of antisocial behaviour. The squad dealt with 53 cases in total since its launch in summer 2006.

We considered the role of the squad to be very effective which is why the Home Office announced on 8 May a new ASB Action Squad who will help local partners make full use of the existing antisocial behaviour tools and powers.

Crimes of Violence: Schools

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many teachers in England were the victims of *(a)* assault and *(b)* sexual assault in schools in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [204379]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office is responsible for the recorded crime statistics which includes data on offences of assault and sexual assaults. However, it is not possible to identify the employment status of the victim.

Driving Offences

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times drivers failed to stop for the police in each of the last five years; and how many of these incidents resulted in *(a)* accidents involving other vehicles, *(b)* accidents involving police vehicles and *(c)* fatal accidents in each of those years. [204905]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Driving Under Influence: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* drug and *(b)* drink driving were recorded in the London borough of Bexley in each year since 1997. [204914]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office recorded crime statistics only has figures for the offence of 'causing death by careless driving (including when under the influence of drink or drugs)'. Deaths caused by careless driving when under the influence cannot currently be separately identified from other causing death by careless driving offences. The recorded crime statistics do not count lesser offences of driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

The Ministry of Justice collect statistics on motoring offences and breath tests in relation to prosecutions and other interventions but they can only provide them at police force area level, and not for local areas such as Bexley.

Eurojust

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on the future of Eurojust; and if she will make a statement; [204782]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with other EU member states on the future of Eurojust; and if she will make a statement; [204783]

(3) what representations she has made to *(a)* other EU member state governments and *(b)* EU institutions on the future of Eurojust; and if she will make a statement. [204784]

Meg Hillier: UK officials attended an expert level seminar in Lisbon in October 2007 to debate with officials from other member states and the European Commission the future development of Eurojust. In December 2007, the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council, which I attended, adopted conclusions on the same subject. Subsequently, negotiations have begun on amendments to Eurojust's legal base with a view to improving its operation. This proposal was considered at the April JHA Council, attended by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing, and is on the agenda for the June JHA Council.

The Government are a firm believer in the important role Eurojust plays in the increasingly complex, cross-border nature of serious and organised crime, which can only be fought effectively through improved judicial co-operation and co-ordination of cases across the EU. Eurojust is helping to break down the barriers to effective judicial co-operation by promoting greater understanding and trust between the different legal systems in member states.

The Government have supported the general aim of the draft Council decision to improve the functioning of Eurojust. The Government have, however, argued against attempts to grant autonomous powers to Eurojust to oblige action at a national level in relation to investigations and prosecutions, which could be seen as paving the way towards the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor (EPP).

Firearms: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of those convicted of offences involving the use of firearms in Lancashire in 2007 were aged between 18 and 25 years; [204848]

(2) how many people under the age of 18 years were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for (i) offences involving the use of firearms and (ii) violent offences involving the use of firearms in Lancashire in each of the last five years; [204849]

(3) how many people under the age of 18 years convicted of offences involving the use of firearms in Lancashire *(a)* received custodial sentences and *(b)* reoffended in each of the last five years. [204850]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* The requested data are not available centrally.

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary etc. From data reported centrally we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

The data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the court proceedings database do not contain information about the circumstances behind each case beyond the description provided in the statute under which prosecutions are brought. For example, it is not possible to identify how many (i) offences and (ii)

violent offences involved the use of a firearm. As a result the information requested on court proceedings is not available.

Firearms: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to involve representatives of shooting interests in the setting of the cost of firearm and shotgun certificates and related authorisations; and if she will make it her policy to consult such representatives before any fee increase. [204604]

Mr. Coaker: It is for the police service to identify in the first instance the costs associated with firearms administration. Representatives of shooting interests will be consulted at an early stage before any changes are made to the fees for issuing certificates.

Firearms: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with Lancashire Constabulary on trends in the number of offences committed by persons under the age of 18 years involving the use of firearms. [204851]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* Members of the Violent Crime Unit are having on-going discussions with Lancashire Constabulary in relation to their gun and gangs problem, particularly in Preston. This includes work with Lancashire Constabulary to review their gangs threat assessment, part of which assesses the threat posed by persons under the age of 18 involved in the use of firearms.

Motorcycles: Training

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 431W, on motorcycles: training, how many offences have been recorded of a rider of a motorcycle with a capacity of under 50cc failing to demonstrate that they have undertaken a compulsory basic training course in each of the last five years. [205265]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. While the Home Office is responsible for the police recorded crime statistics these offences are summary and, as such, they are not included in the data series.

Offensive Weapons

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the use by police forces of the portable metal-detecting knife arches and search wands announced by her Department in February 2008. [204349]

Mr. Coaker: The decision to provide additional search arches and wands was informed by the work of Operation Shield, the British Transport Police's enforcement operation, in which arches and wands are deployed to detect those carrying weapons on the transport network. This on-going operation has shown

significant results both in detecting and deterring people from carrying weapons and in enhancing community confidence. Police and other partners consider that the use of such equipment is a valuable tool in law enforcement.

We are committed to supplementing further the provision of search equipment, as set out in the Tackling Violence Action Plan, published on 18 February 2008.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the additional detection arches and scanners announced by her Department in February 2008 to be made available to police forces. [204350]

Mr. Coaker: We are in the process of providing additional search equipment to police forces.

Offensive Weapons: Young People

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on developing initiatives to tackle the possession of illegal knives by young people. [204348]

Mr. Coaker: There is considerable work already in place to address the issue of young people carrying knives, including:

- educational initiatives such as Be Safe and other projects which provide workshops on weapons awareness;
- the provision of additional search equipment to the police and other partners;
- tougher legislation, such as the increase in the maximum sentence for possession of a knife from two to four years and the increase in the minimum age at which someone can be sold a knife from 16 to 18.

We are also working closely with ACPO and the CPS to increase the presumption to prosecute people who carry knives and are developing plans to ensure that all young people convicted of carrying a knife receive focused interventions to change their behaviour and prevent re-offending.

We will also, at the end of this month, launch a £1 million campaign, developed with the participation of young people, aimed at reducing the carrying of knives by young people.

Olympic Games: China

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions her Department had with the government of China prior to the Olympic torch relay about the role to be played by the Chinese flame security team; what powers the Chinese flame security team were given; what review her Department plans to undertake into the Olympic torch relay and the role played by the Chinese flame security team; and if she will make a statement; [203557]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were arrested during the Olympic torch relay, broken down by age group; how many have been prosecuted for offences committed during the relay; how many have been (i) convicted and (ii) acquitted; and if she will make a statement; [203558]

(3) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were injured whilst taking part in a public demonstration during the Olympic torch relay, broken down by age group. [203559]

Mr. Coaker: The Torch Relay was co-ordinated by a Community Task Force (CTF), led by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the British Olympic Association (BOA) in partnership with the Beijing Olympic Organising Committee (BOCOG).

Each torch relay has torch attendants from the Olympic organising committee responsible for the flame after it has been handed over to the host city. The Chinese torch attendants' roles and responsibilities were as described in the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay Community Planning Guide and the contract between BOCOG and the Greater London Authority and the British Olympic Authority in the document "Agreement—Olympic Torch Relay Services" of 12 October 2007.

The basis of the agreement was that they were to protect the torch, with activity limited to putting themselves between the torch and anyone who was trying either to take it or to do it damage. They had no policing role or executive power in London. The Metropolitan Police Service was responsible for policing the event and ensuring the safety and security of all those involved. As with any major public event, the Metropolitan Police are liaising with the organisers of the relay to review the procedures which were adopted during the event.

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police tells me that 37 arrests were made during the Olympic torch relay. These are broken down as follows:

29 for breach of the peace;

one for handling stolen goods; and

seven for offences under the Public Order Act.

Of these, three were bailed pending further inquires and the remainder were either cautioned, received a fixed penalty notice, or released with no further action.

The Home Office does not have information on how many males or females were injured while taking part in a demonstration during the Olympic torch relay.

Organised Crime: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether DNA data may be shared between EU states through the European database of dangerous offenders in relation to organised crime. [194663]

Meg Hillier: The project to develop a European database of dangerous offenders is in the very early stages and no timetable for its becoming operational has yet been set out. No decisions have yet been taken as to whether any biometric information, including DNA should be on this database.

Passports: Interviews

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been refused a passport following a face-to-face passport interview. [202853]

Jacqui Smith: Passport application interviews form part of our programme to introduce enhanced security arrangements designed to combat passport fraud and forgery and to counter increasing levels of identity fraud. All first time adult passport applicants are now required to come for interview, but extensive checks are carried out prior to interview and in a number of cases this will uncover issues which will mean that the passport application is withdrawn or refused.

IPS records are not held in such a way as to be able to ascertain how many applications have been refused as a direct result of an interview. However, the number of interviews that have failed between 9 July 2007 and 27 April 2008 and been referred to the IPS Fraud and Investigation Units for further investigation is 525. Many of these cases will subsequently have been cleared following further checks and passports will have been issued.

Security: Licensing

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licence applications were rejected by the Security Industry Authority on the grounds of criminality, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* licence category in each year since its inception. [196528]

Mr. Coaker: The total numbers of licence applications refused by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) from 2004-05 to 2007-08 are as follows.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Door supervision	1,067	1,586	1,423	1,642
Security guarding	—	662	1,833	1,028
Cash and valuables in transit	—	42	7	24
Public space surveillance	—	2	64	101
Close protection	—	1	53	31
Vehicle immobilisation	—	85	39	34
Key holding	—	0	3	-1
Total	1,067	2,378	3,422	2,859

Applications may be refused on a number of grounds, including criminality, mental health, the lack of the right to work or other information which the SIA may receive. Information on the grounds of refusal is recorded in individual cases but not centrally collated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effects of financial hardship amongst children and young people on their propensity to offend. [204347]

Mr. Coaker: Growing up with poverty and deprivation can have serious impacts on children's experiences and life chances. Poor childhood development and experiences can lead to negative outcomes including lower educational attainment and employability, poor health and poor non-cognitive skills. Such outcomes increase the likelihood

that children will face poverty and deprivation later in life leading to intergenerational cycles of deprivation.

Chapter 5 of Ending Child Poverty—Everybody's Business (published alongside the Budget on 12 March this year) sets out the new approach to developing the child poverty strategy to meet the Government's target for halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020.

Child poverty is multi-faceted and requires a joined-up approach especially at the local level which is why our new approach sets out the role for Government, communities, local authorities, service providers, employers and families as partners in a contract out of poverty.

The Government are committed to tackling crime, and in particular intervening early with young people to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour and reduce the impact of youth crime on our communities.

That is why the Home Office is working closely with the Ministry of Justice and Department for Children, Schools and Families, to develop the Youth Crime Action Plan. The Action Plan will be published in summer 2008. It will set out an overall strategy for youth crime reduction. The Action Plan will deliver results across youth crime prevention and youth justice as well as a cross cutting theme on victimisation. The overall aim is to reduce offending and re-offending by young people.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 May 2008

JUSTICE

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department met the civil service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204713]

Mr. Straw: As a result of the establishment of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007, we are currently in the process of revising our diversity targets for all under-represented groups. The MoJ is currently working with the Cabinet Office to agree new civil service-wide diversity targets.

The timetable for setting the MoJ's targets will be determined by guidance from the Cabinet Office, which is due late summer 2008.

Information Commissioner

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases are awaiting investigation by the Information Commissioner. [204897]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner is an independent body created by statute with responsibility for handling complaints made to him under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998. The Information Commissioner has provided the answer to this parliamentary question.

At 31 March 2008, the number of cases awaiting investigation by the Information Commissioner was 1,363 for freedom of information casework and 1,237 for data protection casework.

Additionally, due to the volume of cases referred to the Information Commissioner under data protection, there were 2,250 cases awaiting classification as at 31 March 2008. Of these cases, it is estimated that approximately 60 per cent. would be resolved within 30 calendar days and 85 per cent. within 90 calendar days.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time between acceptance of a case for investigation by the Information Commissioner and the commencement of the investigation was in the last period for which figures are available. [204898]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner is an independent body created by statute with responsibility for handling complaints made to him under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998. The Information Commissioner has provided the answer to this parliamentary question.

The Information Commissioner deals with two types of cases: those that come under that Freedom of Information Act and those that come under the Data Protection Act. Between April 2007 and March 2008 the average length of time from receipt to commencement of investigation was 69 days for the Freedom of Information Act cases and 30 days for Data Protection Act cases. The average length of time to close an investigation once commenced, was 182 days from for Freedom of Information Act cases and 45 days for Data Protection Act cases.

Juries: Mental Health

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate the Government have made of the number of people who are not eligible for jury service for reasons related to their mental health. [205026]

Maria Eagle: In March and April 2008, the Jury Central Summoning Bureau summoned 62,559 people for jury service and disqualified 14,647 (23.4 per cent.). Of these, 1,524 were disqualified on grounds of mental health (2 per cent. of the total). These data are subject to the information supplied by the individual summoned.

Prison Service: Languages

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers are proficient in speaking *(a)* Urdu, *(b)* Farsi, *(c)* Arabic, *(d)* Gujarati, *(e)* Punjabi, *(f)* Bangla, *(g)* Tamil, *(h)* Hindi, *(i)* Russian, *(j)* Turkish, *(k)* Cantonese, *(l)* Mandarin, *(m)* Somali, *(n)* Vietnamese, *(o)* Polish, *(p)* Albanian and *(q)* other languages spoken by non-English speakers serving custodial sentences in England and Wales. [205120]

Maria Eagle: It is not a requirement for prison officers to disclose the information requested and therefore it is not held centrally. To obtain the information would require contacting each prisoner officer at a disproportionate cost.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisoners serving determinate sentences were released early in each of the last five years. [205121]

Mr. Straw: Table 10.3 shows the numbers of prisoners released on home detention curfew and the proportion this represents of all prisoners potentially eligible for early release under this scheme, based on the latest published data. Table 10.4 shows the number of determinate sentenced prisoners recommended for parole by the Parole Board and the proportion this represents of all those considered, based on the latest published data.

Table 10.3: Releases on home detention curfew 2002-06

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number released on HDC	20,456	21,188	19,29	17,296	13,666
Percentage released of potential eligible cases	37	37	35	32	26

Table 10.4: Determinate sentence cases considered by the Parole Board

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Recommended for parole	3,175	3,206	3,794	3,718	2,478
Percentage of cases recommended out of those considered for parole	53	53	52	49	36

Source:
Tables 10.3 and 10.4 in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, Ministry of Justice

Additionally, the end of custody licence scheme was introduced on 29 June 2007 and between then and 31 December 2007 there were 16,197 releases under the scheme.

Information about end of custody licence releases and recalls is published on a monthly basis on the Ministry of Justice website. The latest report was published on 30 April and refers to March as the reporting month:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued against *(a)* persons aged under 16, *(b)* persons aged 17 to 18, *(c)* persons aged 19 to 25 and *(d)* persons aged over 25 years in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007, broken down by police force area; and how many such orders have been breached; [203255]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the rate of breach of anti-social behaviour orders; [203256]

(3) what recent estimate she has made of the extent to which anti-social behaviour orders are issued to persons with a diagnosed mental illness. [203257]

Mr. Coaker: The latest available information on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) is up to 31 December 2006 and was published on 8 May.

ASBO data are available broken down by age group 10-17 and adults aged 18 and over, year of issue and Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. CJS areas are coterminous with police force areas and the information is shown in table 1 placed in the House Library. The number of ASBOs breached for the first time in each year is shown in table 3 placed in the House Library.

The Home Affairs Select Committee Report on Anti-Social Behaviour (2004-05) found that inappropriate issuing of ASBOs, for example to people with mental health problems, is not a major problem in practice. Legislation allows the terms of an ASBO to be varied or for the order itself to be discharged if circumstances warrant it.

Home Office published material and training events stress the need for a staged and incremental approach to tackling antisocial behaviour and for specialist professionals to be involved in an assessment of people who have special needs. This advice is available to all antisocial behaviour practitioners, including those practitioners working in social services, in the form of a website, an extensive range of leaflets and the Respect Actionline, which provides professional advice by telephone.

We monitor the overall use of ASBOs on an ongoing basis and adjust policy in response. For example we recently made changes to the ASBO legislation in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 that juveniles' ASBOs should be reviewed after one year. We will continue to build on and extend existing ASBO legislation as appropriate.

Crimes of Violence: Hertfordshire

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Stevenage constituency in each of the last five years; [200354]

(2) how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Welwyn Hatfield constituency in each of the last five years. [200355]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Forensic Science: Genetics

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what percentage of forensic reports arising from low template DNA (LTDNA) analyses have included caveats on the reliability of the results; whether she plans to establish national *(a)* standards and *(b)* guidelines on the (i) collection, (ii) handling and (iii) storage of evidence that might yield DNA material by (A) police and (B) forensic services; and if she will make a statement; [201980]

(2) if she will take steps to establish national *(a)* agreement, *(b)* standards and *(c)* guidelines on how low template DNA profiles should be interpreted; and if she will make a statement. [201984]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office does not hold data on the contents of forensic reports; therefore it is not possible to supply the information on the percentage of reports with caveats.

The independent Forensic Science Regulator is responsible for developing standards in this area; the Home Office does not plan to establish separate guidelines or standards.

The Regulator has recently issued his response to the recommendations in 'A Review of the Science of Low Template DNA Analysis' which considers collection, storage and interpretation.

Homicide: Cheshire

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides there have been in Cheshire since 1998-99, broken down by method of killing. [204414]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 8 May 2008]:* Available information relates to the number of homicides recorded by Cheshire police between 1998-99 and 2006-07 and is shown in the following table.

Offences currently recorded as homicide[1] by apparent method of killing: Cheshire police force area, combined data 1998-99 to 2006-07[2, 3]

Apparent method	Number of homicides
Sharp instrument[4]	26
Blunt instrument	7
Hitting, kicking, etc	19
Strangulation[5]	9
Shooting[6]	—
Explosion	—
Burning	2
Drowning	—
Poison or drugs	6
Motor vehicle[7]	1
Other	3
Not known	4
Total	77

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts or as further information becomes available.
[2] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.
[3] Offences recorded during financial years 1998-99 to 2006-07 are included. This is not necessarily the same period in which the incident took place or any court decision was made.
[4] Includes knives and other sharp instruments.
[5] Includes asphyxiation.
[6] Includes shooting by crossbow.
[7] Excludes death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Operation Pentameter 2 started and finished; how many police forces were involved; how many traffickers were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged with trafficking offences; how many trafficked persons were discovered; how many of these were (i) under 10 years old, (ii) children between 10 and 18 years and (iii) adults; and of the persons discovered, how many had been subjected to (A) sexual exploitation, (B) domestic servitude and (C) forced labour. [204742]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* Operation Pentameter 2 began on 3 October 2007.

The fourth stage of the operation is ongoing. Operational outcomes will be published once the evaluation of the intelligence obtained and conduct of the operation is complete.

Human Trafficking: Social Security Benefits

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the extent of the practice of smuggling babies into the UK for the purpose of benefit fraud; and what steps her Department is taking to prevent it. [205455]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not carried out an estimate of the extent of baby smuggling into the UK for the purpose of benefit fraud. However, the scoping report published by the Child Exploitation On Line Protection Centre (CEOP) in 2007 identified six children who had been trafficked specifically for benefit fraud.

The Government are aware of isolated cases where children have been brought into the country by adults for the purpose of claiming benefits. Since October 2007 the Paladin Team, a police-led multi-agency child protection unit based at London ports, has investigated two individuals suspected of trafficking children for benefit fraud. These are being progressed through the Criminal Justice System.

The Government deplore all forms of human trafficking and are determined to fight these through its UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking. The action plan is currently being updated.

Passports

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of British citizens who do not have a valid UK passport. [204900]

Meg Hillier: The total number of passports issued by IPS and currently valid is estimated at 48,080,000 (an exact figure cannot be given because lost and stolen passports may not be immediately replaced).

When this figure is compared with the current population of the United Kingdom (61,412,000) it is estimated that 21.7 per cent. of the UK population do not hold a valid UK passport.

Theft: Architecture

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* incidents of and *(b)* convictions in relation to theft of architectural features there were in England in each year since 1997; [205084]

(2) what steps she is taking to tackle the theft of architectural features from historic buildings in England. [205085]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is not specifically tackling the theft of architectural features from historic buildings in England.

Local police and other partners in crime prevention and reduction have a wide range of measures and powers available for their use in tackling whichever crime and disorder issues are a priority for them. We would expect them to respond appropriately to prevent and investigate offences of such theft, as they would to other crimes, taking into account available resources and other demands and priorities.

Data on the numbers of such thefts, and prosecutions or convictions for such thefts, are not identifiable from information held centrally.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 831W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what mechanisms are in place to ensure that unauthorised items are not posted by service personnel from the theatre of operations to the United Kingdom. [205123]

Des Browne: All mail is scanned before dispatch from Theatre. All prohibited items are removed and returned to the Theatre Distribution Office for investigation.

Armed Forces: Commonwealth

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will introduce a cap on the number of personnel recruited to the armed forces from Commonwealth countries. [204756]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces are proud to recruit high quality recruits from countries with close historical and political ties. While no decision has been taken to introduce a cap on Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland citizens, we are looking at the rising levels within the armed forces.

Commonwealth and Irish citizens make a huge contribution to the armed forces and bring a range of skills and talents, which enrich the service as a whole, and we would wish to continue to recruit them.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many compensation claims were rejected where the time limit was part of the consideration in making the decision in each year since 2005. [205135]

Derek Twigg: As the armed forces compensation scheme only started from 6 April 2005 the five year time limit for any claims under the scheme has not yet expired and therefore no claims have been rejected under this criterion.

Armed Forces: Disability Living Allowance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many claims for disability allowance have been refused under *(a)* the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and *(b)* the War Pension Scheme in each of the last 10 years. [203987]

Derek Twigg: A total of 5,475 disablement pension claims have been rejected under the War Pensions Scheme between 1 April 2001 and 31 December 2007. Figures are presented by financial year in table 1. Data are available in the format required only as far back as the financial year 2001-02.

A total of 1,650 compensation claims have been rejected under the Armed Forces and Reserves Compensation Scheme between its introduction on 6 April 2005 and 31 December 2007. Figures are presented by financial year in table 2.

Table 1: Rejected war pensions claims, each financial year since 2001-02

War Pensions Scheme	
Financial year	*Rejections*
2001-02	925
2002-03	895
2003-04	850
2004-05	825
2005-06	815
2006-07	715
April 2007 to December 2007	450

Table 2: Rejected armed forces compensation claims, each financial year since the AFCS scheme was introduced

Armed Forces Pension Scheme	
Financial year	*Rejections*
2005-06	165
2006-07	745
April 2007 to December 2007	740

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discount is offered to *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* service leavers living in properties owned by Annington Homes who wish to buy their accommodation. [203980]

Derek Twigg: The majority of service families accommodation (SFA) properties in England and Wales were sold to Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL) in 1996 under a sale and leaseback arrangement. When the Department no longer has a requirement for AHL properties, they are returned to AHL for disposal on the open market. Properties are unoccupied when they are returned to AHL.

While there is no obligation on AHL to offer discounts to current or former service personnel when selling its properties, it has in the past offered certain incentives, concessions or priority to personnel voluntarily. While there is no requirement on the Department to maintain a record of such sales, we understand that between 25 to 30 per cent. of properties have been sold in this way. We are exploring with Annington Homes what more can be done to help service leavers obtain accommodation.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what specific savings are being made in order to implement the armed forces pay review body recommendations for 2008. [205130]

Des Browne: No specific savings have been made to implement the armed forces pay review body recommendations for 2008.

Armed Forces: Procurement

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to increase the proportion of material supplied by British companies procured by or on behalf of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [204987]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* The Defence Industrial Strategy sets out the UK's requirement for a sustainable industrial base and makes clear which industrial capabilities we need to retain in the UK to ensure we can continue to operate the equipment the way we chose to maintain appropriate sovereignty and protect national security. The Ministry of Defence procurement of non-warlike requirements is subject to the EC Public Procurement Regulations that requires such opportunities to be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Armed Forces: Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the joint service publications *(a)* JSP 498, *(b)* JSP 501, *(c)* JSP 510 and *(d)* JSP 512. [175456]

Derek Twigg: I shall arrange for copies of the four publications concerned to be placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 834W, on armed forces: uniforms, what steps his Department takes to ensure no child labour is involved in the manufacturing of the Combat Soldier 95 uniform. [205126]

Des Browne: Defence clothing contract conditions stipulate that no person under the prevailing legal minimum age limit, and in any case never under the age of 14, is employed by any contractor or subcontractor. Combat Soldier 95 clothing is largely manufactured in China where the legal minimum age is 16. MOD staff have visited subcontractors and audited them to try to ensure compliance with Chinese legislation.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with *(a)* his United States counterpart and *(b)* the NATO Secretary-General on the prospective third site for a European-based missile defence system following the Secretary-General's speech on missile defence delivered on 5 May in Geneva. [205229]

Des Browne: The issue of ballistic missile defence is discussed routinely, both bilaterally with the United States Administration, and in NATO forums. It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pan-Balkans *(a)* Ready Battalion and *(b)* Standby Battalion Operational Reserve Force is available to support European Force Althea in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [204567]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The NATO/EU pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force (ORF), currently made up of a battalion from the UK, Germany and Italy, continues to provide the necessary capability to reinforce both the NATO operation in Kosovo and EU operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). The security situation in BiH is stable and current troop levels are considered sufficient. Should military commanders judge that reinforcements are required, the 'Ready' and 'Standby' ORF battalions are available to provide the additional support.

Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the risk analysis carried out to identify the organisation needed to maintain the service level to front line commands during the transitions from *(a)* Caversfield to Ensleigh and *(b)* Ensleigh to Abbeywood. [203186]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Risk analysis and management is an ongoing activity within the DE&S Collocation Project and across all areas of DE&S business. The effective management of risk has already led to the successful move from Andover to Abbey Wood of over 1,000 posts directly supporting the front line. I shall place the original risk analysis in the Library of the House as part of the relevant extracts of the internally approved investment appraisal for bringing forward the move of Defence Clothing Integrated Project Team (DC IPT).

Defence Equipment

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last reassessed wear rates of UK military equipment; and whether he has made a comparison of wear rates between UK and US military equipment. [203331]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Each equipment type has its own maintenance requirement and 'wear rates' are not recorded centrally. We expect to repair and overhaul military equipment used on operations more often than is normally planned in through life costing. No comparisons have been made between UK and US military equipment.

Defence Estates: Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what savings targets were set for Defence Estates for regional prime contracts in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [205131]

Derek Twigg: No in year savings targets were set for Defence Estates in 2007-08 or have been set for 2008-09 against the funding allocated to regional prime contracting.

Departmental ICT

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Defence Information Infrastructure programme. [204351]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I remain content that the performance of the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) programme is continually assessed via its comprehensive governance structure. The fixed element of the DII programme is currently running behind its original implementation schedule; however, the deployable element, which will directly support our front line troops, is progressing on schedule to meet its declared delivery dates. The programme overall remains within 3 per cent. of its approved programme cost and is on track to deliver the benefits supporting its original approval.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1924W, on departmental internet, whether it is possible to determine which creations and amendments to Wikipedia made before January 2008 were made by *(a)* military and *(b)* Civil Service personnel. [202382]

Derek Twigg: This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1807-08W on departmental manpower, how many of the employees under 18 years of age are receiving at least one day's training per week. [204933]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what value of *(a)* RfR1 and *(b)* RfR2 (i) operating income and (ii) non-operating income was (A) appropriated in aid and (B) surrendered to the Consolidated Fund in each year from 2001-02 to 2006-07. [205469]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information has been published in the MOD's annual report and accounts for the years in question, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. In summary:

£000

	Operating income		Non-operating income	
Financial year	*Appropriation in aid*	*Surrendered to consolidated fund*	*Appropriation in aid*	*Surrendered to consolidated fund*
2006-07				
RfR1	1,478,181	34,698	498,287	—
RfR2	15,557	5,047	—	—
2005-06				
RfR1	1,346,570	76,272	374,320	—
RfR2	—	16,062	—	—
2004-05				
RfR1	1,258,309	[1]215,889	287,435	153,207
RfR2	—	—	—	—
2003-04				
RfR1	1,377,823	85,315	367,798	[2]37,325
RfR2	—	—	—	—
2002-03				
RfR1	1,449,767	—	373,756	[3]—
RfR2	—	—	—	—
2002-01				
RfR1	1,308,607	42,810	336,533	[3]22,557
RfR2	—	—	—	—

[1] An amount collectable on behalf of the Consolidated Fund in respect of the QinetiQ sale £357,771,000 was also paid to the Consolidated Fund.
[2] Amounts collectable on behalf of the Consolidated Fund in respect of repayment of QinetiQ loan £49,900,000 and sale of certain assets £44,300,000 were also paid to the Consolidated Fund.
[3] An amount collectable on behalf of the Consolidated Fund in respect repayment of the QinetiQ loan £46,429,000 was also paid to the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what value of *(a)* operating income and *(b)* non-operating income was (i) appropriated in aid and (ii) surrendered to the Consolidated Fund in each year from 1992-93 to 2000-01. [205470]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information has been published in the MoD's appropriation accounts for the years in question, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. In summary:

£ million

Financial year	*Appropriation in aid*	*Surrendered to the consolidated fund*
1992-93	1,698	33
1993-94	3,054	70
1994-95	3,051	79
1995-96	3,060	121
1996-97	3,002	732
1997-98	3,309	88
1998-99	2,968	73
1999-2000	3,004	82
2000-01	3,145	25

The appropriation in aid did not distinguish between operating and non-operating income for these periods.

Departmental Stationery

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on official ministerial *(a)* business cards and *(b)* headed paper in each year since 1997. [201629]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held.

Iraq Conflict

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department were first informed that a video tape existed of the United States aerial attack which killed Lance-Corporal Hull. [122369]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 370W. The handling of the audio/video recording in question is being investigated. I will write to the hon. Gentleman when the investigation is complete and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Julian Lewis:

You will recall that I wrote to you on 11 September 2007 about the investigation into the handling of the US cockpit recording of an attack on a UK light tank in Iraq on 28 March 2003. We have now received the Joint Army/RAF investigation report on the unauthorised disclosure of the cockpit recording and I am therefore able to give you a substantive response to the specific questions you asked in your parliamentary question (Reference 122369, *Official Report*, 5 March 2007 columns 1642/3W).

I can now confirm that officials were informed of the existence of the CD recording when preparing for the Board of Inquiry into the incident. The recording, among other material, was requested by the Board of Inquiry from the US authorities and received on 23 April 2004 via the MOD's Permanent Joint Headquarters. Ministers received written advice about the existence of the CD recording and its unauthorised disclosure on 2 February 2007 in relation to the issue being raised at the Coroner's inquest.

As a result of the failings identified, remedial action is being taken. A new security education programme is being introduced as part of a wider security awareness campaign to ensure that those involved in the handling of classified and sensitive material are aware of the rules and procedures to be followed. An instruction on the release of US (and other third country) material during legal proceedings has also been issued to all MOD personnel to remind them of their responsibilities in respect of the secure handling of protectively marked US material, and we are in the process of establishing new arrangements for the management of Boards of Inquiry and Inquests to ensure a more consistent approach across the Department. The US authorities have been informed of the investigation's findings and of the remedial action taken.

I can assure you that I take the protection of classified material, especially that entrusted to us by a close ally, very seriously, and the Permanent Secretary has asked the chain of command to consider whether administrative or disciplinary action against any individual is appropriate in light of the finding of the report.

Personnel Carriers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fully armed personnel carriers are deployed in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [202170]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the rules of engagement will be of the UK operational reserve battalion for its deployment to Kosovo. [204145]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK Operational Reserve Force battalion will operate under a UK rules of engagement profile. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the mission for the deployment of the UK Operational Reserve Force to Kosovo is. [204565]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK Operational Reserve Force battalion will provide NATO with extra flexibility in maintaining peace and stability for all communities in Kosovo.

Massereene Barracks

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the proceeds of the sale of Massereene Barracks in Northern Ireland will be retained within his Department's budget or returned to the Exchequer. [205393]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) retains the full benefit of disposal receipts, which form part of the Defence budget agreed with HM Treasury during the periodic spending reviews. In line with Treasury guidance, the proceeds of receipts are reinvested by the MOD in key priorities.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 484W, on military aircraft: helicopters, what the average number of flying hours flown by helicopter pilots was in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [204765]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between 1 May 2007 and 30 April 2008, the average number of flying hours per helicopter pilot per two-month tour was 106 for those serving in Iraq, and 111 for those serving in Afghanistan.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to answer 203199, on defence procurement, tabled by the hon. Member for New Forest East on 28 April 2008. [205549]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I replied to the hon. Member on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1528W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who owns the freehold to *(a)* the Government flats in Admiralty House and *(b)* Admiralty Arch. [205436]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office is responsible for the freeholds of both Admiralty House and Admiralty Arch.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1692W, on Admiralty House: official residences, how many bathrooms the official residence occupied by Lord Malloch-Brown has. [205511]

Phil Hope: The flat occupied by Lord Malloch-Brown has two bathrooms.

Births

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many births there were in each primary care trust area in 2006-07. [205199]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many births there were in each Primary Care Trust area in 2006-2007. (205199)

Birth statistics from the birth registration system are published on a calendar year basis. The latest year for which figures are available is 2006. The published number of live births in 2006 by Primary Care Trust area was provided to you by the Office for National Statistics in March 2008 in response to a previous question (ref 195752).

The first release of 2007 birth statistics for England and Wales is planned for summer 2008. The number of live births in 2007 by Primary Care Trust area is a subsequent product of the first release and will be sent to you by the Office for National Statistics once it is available, towards the end of the summer.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost was of food and drink procured for working lunches attended by officials at which no external invitees were present in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [205520]

Phil Hope: The information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on official hospitality including working lunches is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Integrated Household Survey

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many households will be surveyed by the Integrated Household Survey in each year once the survey is fully implemented. [204887]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many households will be surveyed by the Integrated Household Survey in each year once the survey is fully implemented. (204887)

The Integrated Household Survey (IHS) is being implemented in a phased way, with four of the initial five component surveys already within the IHS. These are the General Household Survey, Expenditure and Food Survey, Omnibus and the English Housing Survey. The fifth survey, the Labour Force Survey, will join the IHS in 2009. At that point, approximately 200,000 individual households will be interviewed in the IHS annually, split across the five IHS survey modules.

From 2009, other new social surveys that start up may also become part of the IHS.

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the percentage increases in *(a)* pension contributions, *(b)* salaries and *(c)* expense allowances of (i) Cabinet Ministers, (ii) Ministers of State and (iii) Parliamentary Under-Secretaries were in each of the last five years; [205020]

(2) what the percentage increases in pension payments to former *(a)* Cabinet Ministers, *(b)* Ministers of State and *(c)* Parliamentary Under-Secretaries were in each of the last 10 years. [205021]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

The pension contribution of Members increased from 9 per cent. to 10 per cent. of salary in April 2004 for those opting for one fortieth pension accrual. It remained at 6 per cent. of salary for one fiftieth accrual. These pension contribution rates also apply to ministerial salaries.

Further information on current and historical rates of ministerial salaries and allowances payable to Members is available in the House Library.

The increases in ministerial salaries are given in the following table.

Date of increase	*Size of increase (percentage)*
1 April 2003	2.25
1 April 2004	2.00
1 April 2005	2.80

Date of increase	Size of increase (percentage)
1 April 2006	1.00
1 November 2006	0.99
1 April 2007	0.66

There was no difference in the percentage salary increases between Secretaries of State, Ministers of State or Parliamentary Under-Secretaries.

Increases in Allowances

All Secretaries of State, Ministers of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries in this House are generally entitled to claim the same allowances as any other Member. The exception is that Ministers who are not provided with an official residence in London in respect of their office are entitled to claim the London supplement. They may claim this alongside the additional costs allowance if they also qualify for that allowance.

	As at 1 April each year—Size of increase (percentage)				
Allowance	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Additional costs allowance	2.80	3.50	2.40	4.20	4.00
Bicycle	2.78	170.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communications allowance	—	—	—	—	4.00
Incidental expenses provision	2.80	3.49	2.20	4.40	4.00
London supplement	2.80	59.95	2.40	6.11	3.70
Motorcycle allowance	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Staffing allowance	3.40	8.44	3.80	3.70	3.70

The motor mileage allowance increased by 2.6 per cent. on 1 April 2004. From 1 April 2005 the motor mileage rate was reduced by 30.68 per cent. for the first 10,000 miles, by 56.67 per cent. between 10,001 and 20,000 miles and by 6.02 per cent. for over 20,000 miles. There has been no change to the level of the motor mileage allowance since 1 April 2005.

As for many public pensions, the increases applied each April to pensions in payment under the parliamentary contributory pension fund, in excess of the guaranteed minimum pension, were linked to the increase in the retail prices index as at the previous September. These increases applied to pensions paid to former Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries. The percentage increases for the last ten years were as follows.

April each year	Increase (percentage)
1999	3.2
2000	1.1
2001	3.3
2002	1.7
2003	1.7
2004	2.8
2005	3.1
2006	2.7
2007	3.6
2008	3.9

Mothers

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average age of a first-time mother was in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [204978]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for information on the average age of a first-time mother in (a) the North West and (b) England in the most recent period for which figures are available. (204978)

It is not possible to provide the information requested because the number of previous children born to a woman is not collected from all mothers at birth registration.

Estimates of the mean age at first birth are published for England and Wales as a whole. ONS supplements the information on previous children collected from married mothers at birth registration with survey data to produce estimates of first births for England and Wales. However, it is not possible to produce these estimates for England or for sub-national areas.

Population: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information the Office for National Statistics holds on the numbers of people resident in Wirral, West constituency, broken down by age group. [205065]

Phil Hope: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning the numbers of people resident in Wirral West constituency. (205065)

The latest population estimates for Parliamentary Constituencies in England and Wales are for mid-2005. The estimates for Wirral West constituency by age group are shown in the attached table.

Population estimates for Wirral West parliamentary constituency, mid-2005 (experimental statistics)

Quinary age groups	Persons
0-4	3,600
5-9	4,300
10-14	5,200
15-19	5,100
20-24	3,600
25-29	2,900
30-34	3,800
35-39	4,900
40-44	5,800
45-49	5,500
50-54	5,300
55-59	5,900
60-64	4,300
65-69	4,000
70-74	4,000

Population estimates for Wirral West parliamentary constituency, mid-2005 (experimental statistics)

Quinary age groups	*Persons*
75-79	3,600
80-84	2,800
85+	2,200
All ages	76,900

Note:
These mid-2005 parliamentary constituency population estimates are consistent with the published mid-2005 local authority estimates (August 2007 revisions) and have been rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Security: Greater London

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Cabinet Office's Annual Resource Accounts for 2006-07, in what ways the Government Secure Zone project has been delivered more slowly than expected; and what the *(a)* forecast and *(b)* outturn expenditure on the project was in 2006-07. [191175]

Mr. Watson: During 2006-07, the Government Secure Zone (GSZ) programme was delivered with *(a)* forecast expenditure of £13,351,000 and *(b)* outturn expenditure of £12,767,000 (grant and non-grant) within a total income of £13,386,000 (resource and capital). The main project within the GSZ programme (the "Whitehall Streetscape Improvement" project) was delayed by three months in obtaining planning permission, resulting in a slower delivery and consequential underspend of £619,000 for the 2006-07 financial year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what the reasons were for the decision not to extend the video conferencing trials on the parliamentary estate; and if the Commission will reconsider this decision; [205102]

(2) what assessment the Commission has made of the merits of video conferencing on the parliamentary estate as a means of reducing the need of staff and hon. Members to travel to meetings. [205103]

Nick Harvey: There has been no specific assessment of whether video conferencing would be an effective means of reducing the need of staff and Members to travel to meetings. Parliamentary ICT (PICT) has been running a very limited informal trial of two 'table top' video conferencing products to establish their technical viability and to gain some insight into their potential benefit. This is now complete.

PICT's work relating to Members ICT has been defined by the Administration Committee in its second report of 2006-07 "Information and Communication Technology Services for Members" (HC 498), as approved by the Commission. The report's recommendations and the programme of work that has been agreed with the Commission do not include extending the provision of video conferencing in the immediate future.

For Members who do wish to use this type of service a portable video conference facility can be booked via the room booking service for use in some of the meeting rooms in Portcullis House and PICT can offer some advice to Members on the products that they could consider and their cost if they wish to use this service in their own offices.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Construction: Prices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has made a recent assessment of whether construction companies have engaged in price-fixing in the supply of services to the public sector. [205210]

Mr. Thomas: This is a matter for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) which is currently investigating allegations of bid-rigging in the construction sector. Information about this investigation may be found in the OFT's press release of 17 April 2008 which is published on their website at:

http://www.oft.gov.uk/news/press/2008/52-08

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessor spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [204108]

Mr. Thomas: BERR and its predecessor the DTI is part of the cross-government offsetting scheme called Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. All ministerial and official travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. Details are only available from this date.

For the period 2006-07 the total offsetting cost for air travel was £44,294.33 to offset 4469tCO2e. Data are currently being collected for the 2007-08 reporting year and will be available later in the year.

The GCOF is being managed by EEA Fund Management Ltd., who won the contract to source and deliver 255,000 Certified Emission Reduction Credits, with a provision for a further 50,000 credits, over three years from a range of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. Credits will be supplied from the project portfolio of Trading Emissions plc, to whom EEA is the investment adviser.

Grayling Political Strategy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what payments *(a)* the UK Atomic Energy Authority and *(b)* Postcomm made to Grayling Political Strategy in each of the last five years; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [202252]

Malcolm Wicks: Since the hon. Member has asked for information specifically related to UKAEA and Postcomm's direct involvement with Grayling, I have asked the companies to write to him directly with the information.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how many smoking shelters were built at each of her Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205038]

Helen Goodman: Due to a machinery of government change in May 2007, the Leader of the House of Commons Office now forms part of the Cabinet Office. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster will be answering this question shortly on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the environmental implications of airlines running empty or near-empty flights to retain slot allocation. [203388]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* The EU airport slot allocation regulations require airlines to use their slots for 80 per cent. of the time or return them to be re-allocated to other airlines by the independent slot co-ordinator. The UK independent slot co-ordinator is not aware of any cases at present where an airline is flying empty aircraft to retain an airport slot. Such cases are very rare, the cost of fuel being a disincentive. Hence we have not made an assessment of the environmental impact.

Aviation: Northern Ireland

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the future of aviation between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. [204423]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under the devolution arrangements for Northern Ireland civil aviation is a reserved matter, for which the Secretary of State for Transport has policy responsibility. Under these arrangements, the Secretary of State and Department for Transport officials correspond with Northern Ireland Ministers and officials about a range of civil aviation policy issues.

M20

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the proposed starting date is for work on Junction 10A of the M20. [205413]

Mr. Tom Harris: Subject to the satisfactory completion of the necessary statutory procedures and availability of funding, work is due to start in January 2012.

Speed Limits

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what encouragement the Government is giving to those local authorities that wish to introduce 20 mile per hour limits. [205758]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Local traffic authorities are responsible for setting local speed limits and have powers to introduce 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones if they believe it appropriate to do so. The Department encourages and supports any local authority wishing to introduce 20 mph speed limits.

This view is reflected in the Department's guidance to local authorities on setting local speed limits, published in August 2006. In addition Traffic Advisory Leaflet 9/99 provides best practice guidelines on setting 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones.

WALES

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department since 1997. [204760]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office was only created in 1999. Since then it has made 57 statutory instruments and revoked none.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2564W, on Admiralty House, what the cost of the repainting of Admiralty House for Lord Malloch-Brown's residence was after the former Deputy Prime Minister vacated the residence. [203033]

Meg Munn: The cost of repainting two bedrooms, an adjacent corridor and one bathroom in the flat at Admiralty House totalled £7,137.42 (including value added tax). Admiralty House is a Grade 1 listed building and is maintained in line with that status.

Afghanistan: Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken by his Department to improve the education system in Afghanistan. [204363]

Meg Munn: Improving access for all to quality education across Afghanistan is a critical element to our comprehensive approach to bring security, stability and reconstruction to Afghanistan.

The Department for International Development (DfID) has the UK lead in supporting education in Afghanistan. The hon. Gentleman will be aware that

DfID provides funding (£55 million in 2007-08) to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. This fund pays the salaries of over 100,000 teachers and 90 per cent. of the Ministry of Education's wage bill. In this way DfID funding has contributed to an increase from one million pupils in 2001 to six million today, and an increase from approximately 21,000 teachers in 2001 to more than 128,000 today. In addition, since 2002, over 2,000 schools have been built or reconstructed. Officials at our embassy in Kabul work closely with the Afghan Minister for Education, parliamentarians, officials, non-governmental organisations and teachers as they work to improve education in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what critical military gaps in NATO's deployment in Afghanistan remain to be filled. [203775]

Meg Munn: Military requirements in Afghanistan are decided by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and laid out in the Combined Joint Statement of Requirement. Despite the recent increases in commitment made by many of our allies there remain shortfalls in some areas such as training and mentoring teams, combat troops, in the south and east, and support helicopters. The UK continues to work with partners to address these shortfalls.

Information on national contributions can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and NATO websites:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/uk-in-afghanistan/

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/InDepth/OperationsInAfghanistan.html

http://www.nato.int/isaf/index.html

Ballistic Missile Defence

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the implications of missile defence policy for EU foreign policy. [204806]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* I have had no discussion with my EU counterparts on the issue of missile defence in the context of EU foreign policy. The European security and defence policy gives the EU the capability to undertake civilian and military crisis management operations. It has no competence to consider ballistic missile defence.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Burmese government on *(a)* human rights violations and *(b)* the introduction of democratic institutions in that country. [205094]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* The lack of respect for democracy and human rights in Burma is of grave concern to the Government. We take every opportunity to raise concerns with the Burmese authorities, at the relevant multilateral organisations, and with countries in the region that have an influence over the regime. Before the devastating cyclone hit Burma, we called for urgent action ahead of the 10 May referendum because, as currently conceived, the process designed by the Burmese regime will not deliver the reconciliation, stability and prosperity that Burma needs. Nor will it address the long-standing violations of human rights. Since the cyclone hit Burma, our efforts have focused on seeking to provide humanitarian support.

China: Tibet

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of China to encourage it to *(a)* reach agreement with representatives of the Dalai Lama on Tibet and *(b)* publish a record of the discussions which it holds with those representatives. [203472]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Premier Wen about the situation in Tibet on 19 March, urging restraint and dialogue with the Dalai Lama. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary further emphasised the need for dialogue when he spoke to Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on 21 and 28 March, and 7 April. We have been raising the situation with the Chinese, both in Beijing and in London, on a regular basis. We are aware that Chinese officials met with representatives of the Dalai Lama on 4 May. We welcome this as the first step towards resumption of dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama and his representatives. We hope that dialogue will now continue, with substantive matters being discussed, in order to resolve the underlying issues.

We continue to urge greater transparency from the Chinese authorities on the issue of Tibet. However, it is for the Government of China and representatives of the Dalai Lama to decide whether or not to publicise the detail of their discussions.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has made for the future use of 1 Carlton Gardens following the decision not to use the property as a Ministerial residence; and if he will make a statement. [202840]

Meg Munn: We are currently in negotiation with The Crown Estate about the future of the lease on 1 Carlton Gardens.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201726]

Meg Munn: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies including Central Government Departments in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following web address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied; and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 FCO annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information on requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Department answered "in time" (that is, meeting the deadline or within a permitted extension) in 2007 was 98 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOIA exemption or Environmental Information Regulations exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 254, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Diego Garcia: Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1713W, on Diego Garcia: rendition, whether any UK official met each of the two individuals during their detention. [203522]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* We have no information to suggest that the two individuals concerned met UK officials during their detention.

Gaza: Fuels

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on attacks against fuel convoys entering Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [204752]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* We are aware that Palestinian militants have attacked crossing points at Nahal Oz on 9 April, Kerem Shalom and Nahal Oz on 17 April and Erez on 21 April. We condemn such actions which serve only to increase the suffering of the people of Gaza. We urge all parties to ensure that basic humanitarian supplies, including fuel, are maintained.

India: Family Planning

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of India on population control policies. [204370]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has had discussions with officials of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India on population issues in the context of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-2), to which DFID contributes. DFID has committed £252 million to the programme from 2005 to 2011.

RCH-2, launched in April 2005, is the Government of India's key programme to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for reducing maternal and child mortality. The programme seeks to expand the range of information and services available on contraception, particularly to the poorest populations. The programme will increase access to reversible methods of contraception, which will allow young women to delay childbearing and all women to have a longer interval between births. This will improve the health of children as well as mothers.

The most recent joint government and donor review of this programme took place in February 2008. The review found that there has been an increase in the provision of family planning, and particularly of reversible methods of contraception.

Iraq: Administration of Justice

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which prosecuting authority has responsibility to prosecute alleged criminal offences committed by contractors working for HM Government in Iraq. [205426]

Meg Munn: Jurisdiction over contractors working for the government in Iraq is covered by Coalition Provisional Authority Order Number 17 (Revised) (CPA17).

Under CPA17, contractors are not subject to Iraqi laws and regulations in matters relating to the terms and conditions of their contracts. But the provisions of CPA17 are without prejudice to the exercise of jurisdiction by the sending state and the state of nationality of a

contractor in accordance with applicable laws. The sending state may, however, waive immunity for contractors if requested.

If any personnel, employed by organisations contracted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), were suspected of committing a crime in Iraq, but appeared to be immune from Iraqi legal process, the FCO would refer them to the disciplinary authority of their employing organisation with a view to having them removed from our contract in Iraq. The FCO would also bring the matter to the attention of the UK police and/or the authorities of the individual's nationality. The decision whether to pursue a UK criminal investigation, and ultimately whether a prosecution should be undertaken in an individual case, would be a matter for the UK police and prosecuting authorities, acting independently from the Government.

In the case of suspected non-criminal misconduct, we would take up the matter with the employing organisation, and either investigate the matter or have the employing organisation do so and report to us, depending on the circumstances and the nature of the allegations.

Iraq: Embassies

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will initiate an independent inquiry into allegations of sexual abuse on the part of staff contracted to work at HM embassy, Baghdad. [205261]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) was made aware of these allegations in June 2007. The complainants were interviewed promptly and in detail by senior members of our embassy staff. However, as the allegations were made both by and against employees of a company contracted by the FCO, we asked the company concerned to send staff from its UK office to take forward the investigation. They did so thoroughly and professionally in June 2007 and we accepted their conclusions and recommendations. We have since reviewed this decision and have concluded that there are no grounds for reopening the case.

KBR

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contracts have been fulfilled for his Department by KBR in the last five years; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* duration was of each such contract; and where the work to fulfill the contract was performed in each case. [205260]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently have one contract with KBR, for the provision of life support services to our Embassy in Baghdad and the Contingency Operating Base in Basra, Iraq:

at award this contract was valued at £3.5 million approximately per annum. This does, however, not take account of the varying requirements for supplies of fuel and water which are in part subject to demand;

the contract provides catering, commissary, laundry, cleaning, site waste removal/vector control services, site management and related resource in addition to providing bottled and tankered water and fuel supplies; and

the contract commenced in February 2006 and ends on 26 February 2009, and is due for re-tender shortly.

All FCO contracts are subject to a rigorous selection process so that we obtain best value for money. Any company engaged by the FCO needs to pass through a stringent and transparent procurement process, in line with public procurement guidelines and best practice. The same rigorous process is followed in the contract management and performance monitoring of these contracts.

Maldives: Elections

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK is making to international efforts to ensure a fair election in the Maldives; and if he will make a statement. [204593]

Meg Munn: The UK is providing financial support for Commonwealth efforts to improve the Maldivian legislative electoral framework. Free, fair and credible elections are a crucial element of democratic reform in the Maldives. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, emphasised this point to Dr. Mohamad Asim, the Maldivian high commissioner in March. He also pointed out that the freedom of politicians and political parties to be able to campaign and debate freely was a cornerstone of democracy.

Nepal: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Nepal on the observance of human rights. [204366]

Meg Munn: Throughout the recent pre-election period, the UK maintained its strong support for the work of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other local, and international, human rights organisations in Nepal. In a joint public statement, issued on the eve of elections, we noted our deep concern at the election- related killings, abductions, disturbances and intimidation which were taking place in parts of the country. We also condemned those who had sought to disrupt the elections and stressed that the people of Nepal should be able to choose their new representatives, free from fear and threat. Following elections, we will continue to urge the Government of Nepal to investigate all cases of past human rights violations and abuses, and bring an end to the culture of impunity.

On 22 April, the UK joined an EU demarche to the Government of Nepal to protest about the violation of rights of Tibetan demonstrators in Kathmandu and elsewhere in Nepal, as well as the excessive use offered against them. The actions by Nepalese police violated individuals' rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and we have urged a thorough investigation of these incidents.

Nepal: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Nepal following the constituent assembly elections on 10 April 2008. [204365]

Meg Munn: Along with the international community, the UK welcomed the largely peaceful elections to a Constituent Assembly which were held on 10 April. The election results clearly demonstrated the people of Nepal's desire for peace and change and we are urging all parties to respect this mandate and work together to deliver lasting peace and development in Nepal. As a long-standing friend of Nepal, the UK stands ready to help support the new government at this critical juncture in the country's transition.

Syria: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Syria on human rights in relation to the universal periodic review conducted by the UN Human Rights Council. [204342]

Meg Munn: Our ambassador in Damascus raised the periodic review of the UK by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) with officials at the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28 April. He welcomed the review, underlined our support for these mechanisms and looked forward to other states working with the HRC in the same constructive way.

Syria will be one of the last countries to be reviewed under the UN's new universal periodic review process in 2011. The UK has not yet engaged in dialogue with Syria on its review. However, we are prepared to do so when they start to prepare for this important process.

In the meantime, the UK continues to have serious concerns about the human rights situation in Syria, which has deteriorated worryingly in recent months. We continue to call on Syria to abide by its international obligations on human rights. Our embassy in Damascus, working with other EU missions, continues to press the Syrians to improve conditions in general as well as raising individual cases of concern.

Zimbabwe: Arms Trade

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese authorities on the delivery of arms to Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [203892]

Meg Munn: We have lobbied the Chinese Government in Beijing not to supply arms to Zimbabwe on four occasions since a Chinese ship attempted to unload in Durban. The EU already has in place a ban on the sales of arms to Zimbabwe. We support a moratorium on arms sales until there is a return to democracy and good governance. We raised this with the support of other states in the UN Security Council.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Wastes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the abolition of the agricultural buildings allowance for slurry storage facilities on *(a)* the average net income of farmers, *(b)* implementation of nitrate vulnerable zones and *(c)* trends in nitrate levels. [204211]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The withdrawal of the Agricultural Buildings Allowance (ABA) is part of a package of measures introduced at Budget 2007 which also saw the reduction of the main rate of corporation tax and the introduction of a £50,000 Annual Investment Allowance (AIA), allowing 95 per cent. of businesses to write off all their expenditure on plant and machinery (excluding cars) in the year in which it is made. The effect of this package will vary according to the particular circumstances of a business.

Slurry storage facilities may be considered plant and machinery and therefore be eligible for plant and machinery capital allowances (both the AIA and writing-down allowances) at 20 per cent. a year on any balance of expenditure not covered by the AIA where the storage of the slurry is incidental to its final use.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department of air travel excluding carbon offsetting was in 2006-07. [198223]

Jonathan Shaw: For the period April 2006 to December 2007 inclusive, and from information held centrally, for core-DEFRA, the Animal Health Agency, the Centre for Environmental, Fisheries and Aquacultural Science, the Government Decontamination Service, and the Rural Payments Agency, expenditure on air travel by Ministers and officials was £3,447,090. Expenditure on travel is undertaken in accordance with departmental travel policy. For the financial year 2006-07, DEFRA will procure credits through the Government's Carbon Offsetting Fund to offset 2,864 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) for its flights.

Details of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers are published annually by Government and is accessible at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety and ethics/ministers.aspx

The list includes details about the number of officials accompanying a Minister when non-scheduled travel is used for the trip. Copies of lists covering information going back to the 1997-98 financial year are available in the Libraries of the House.

Expenditure on travel is undertaken in accordance with departmental travel policy.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his Departmental website. [200167]

Jonathan Shaw: The most recent redesign and implementation of the DEFRA website took place between January and April 2007. Redesign work was undertaken by a third party at a cost of £27,342; implementation was achieved using existing in-house resources.

Specifically, the cost of this work related to the development of new design options and usage guidelines, page templates and stylesheets, and improvements to the general accessibility of the site.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based. [200716]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is not responsible for the administration of any public sector pension scheme but most of its staff are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension scheme (PCSPS). The information requested and other useful information is contained in the scheme's annual resource accounts which can be accessed via its website:

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

and is also available from the House of Commons Library.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the unfunded liability in present value terms was of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1990-91. [200717]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on liabilities in present value terms is in the scheme's annual Resource Accounts (since 2000-01) although these are produced under differing sets of assumptions (e.g. on longevity), so are not directly comparable across years. The vast majority of DEFRA staff are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and the Resource Accounts can be accessed via the scheme's website at:

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

and are also available from the House of Commons Library.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200718]

Jonathan Shaw: The vast majority of DEFRA staff are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The information requested is contained in the scheme's annual Resource Accounts since 2000-01.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200719]

Jonathan Shaw: An increase to the employee contribution would have a nil effect on the Department's expenditure.

Facilities Management

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons why an in-house bid has not been made with regard to his Department's plans to outsource the facilities management functions in his Department and its agencies. [194170]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* Discussions have been held with departmental trade union side on the issue of an in-house bid. In those discussions, it was made clear that all bids would be treated equally. However, no such bid has been made. It is not for us to say why, but it should be noted that the proposed contract is far-reaching and requires far more than a replication of services currently delivered by the in-house team.

Fisheries: Quotas

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on placing a limit on catches for all EU vessels fishing within the UK 12 mile limit. [204856]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has no plans to place a limit on catches for all EU vessels fishing within the UK 12 mile limit.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms other than EU quotas there are to limit the activities of non-UK fishing vessels within the UK 12 mile limit in respect of *(a)* fish and *(b)* shellfish catches; and what mechanisms there are to enable EU member states to manage their own inshore shellfisheries without derogating from the Common Fisheries Policy. [204859]

Jonathan Shaw: The activities of non-UK vessels in our waters would be subject to the full range of controls under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), including limitations on effort for those capable of catching any of the relevant recovery or management plan stocks. Otherwise, individual member states may extend any more stringent national rules applying to their own vessels to those of other member states, providing the Commission, relevant Regional Advisory Councils and the member states concerned are content.

We have no EU measures on shellfish but certain member states have limits at national level.

Fisheries: Shellfish

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of changes in the *(a)* capacity of and *(b)* catch taken by non-UK fishing vessels with historical practice access to UK waters within the 12 mile limit and which target crabs and lobster since 1997; and whether the same minimum landing sizes of

crabs apply to vessels from other EU member states and UK vessels when fishing in those waters; [204855]

(2) what data his Department receives on catches by fishing vessels from other EU member states within the six to 12 mile band of UK waters. [204858]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not hold data on changes in capacity and catches by foreign vessels within the 12 mile limit. Minimum landing sizes, as set out in EU legislation, must by complied with by all EU-flagged vessels.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what shellfish stock assessment measures there are in respect of the six to 12 mile band of UK waters for the purpose of enabling accreditation schemes to demonstrate sustainability. [204857]

Jonathan Shaw: There is a range of stock assessment measures in place for shellfish at regional, national and EU levels, but there are no national or EU measures which explicitly relate only to the six to 12 mile zone. Sea Fisheries Committees (SFC) have introduced, or are in the process of introducing, a number of measures for the explicit purpose of gaining Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) accreditation, for instance South Wales SFC's management of the Burry Inlet cockle fishery, and North East Sea Fisheries Committee's (NESFC) attempt to gain accreditation for the local lobster fishery. These SFC measures, however, apply out to six miles only.

While none of the aforementioned measures has been introduced specifically for the purpose of enabling accreditation schemes to demonstrate sustainability, such measures are seen as an integral part of any shellfish management plan which would be a pre-requisite for gaining accreditation.

Flood Control

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the contribution of land management to reducing flooding. [204966]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA published the findings of a major review of the impacts of rural land use and management on flood generation in November 2004. Subsequently, further work was commissioned on the analysis of historical data sets to look for the impacts of land use and management change on flood generation. The final report will be published later this year.

As part of the Government's making space for water delivery plan, the Environment Agency led a project to assess both the implications of land management change to flood risk at individual farm and catchment scale. This work included an update of the 2004 review.

Work was commissioned as part of the DEFRA-funded ripon project to model the effects of catchment scale land management in that area.

A research project to monitor and analyse the long-term impacts of land use change associated with the united utilities sustainable catchment management plan in North West has been commissioned under the joint DEFRA/Environment Agency flood risk management Research and Development programme.

Horses: Exports

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many horse and pony export licences were issued in each of the last three years. [205139]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of licences issued in each of the last three years, in connection with horses and ponies exported from English ports or airports, is as follows:

	2007	*2006*	*2005*
Horses	4,630	3,967	4,034
Ponies	527	457	541
Total	5,157	4,424	4,575

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what analysis he has commissioned of the costs and benefits of the implementation of nitrate vulnerable zones. [204212]

Mr. Woolas: We intend to announce and publish our response to the nitrate vulnerable zones consultation before Parliament breaks for summer recess. This will include a summary of what the Department plans to do as a result of the consultation responses.

The draft proposals which were subject to consultation earlier this year were costed.

Rural Areas: Visits

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of visits made to the countryside in *(a)* the 12 months prior to and *(b)* each year since the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 gained Royal Assent; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of the Act on the numbers of people visiting the countryside. [204895]

Jonathan Shaw: No national monitoring of the number of visits made to the countryside was undertaken in the 12 months prior to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) receiving Royal Assent on 30 November 2000. However, the UK Day Visit survey 1998 estimated that there were 1253 million visits to the countryside that year.

The Leisure Day Visits survey 2002-03 for England estimated that there were 1126 million visits to the countryside and a further 200 million to the 'seaside coast'.

The England Day Visits survey 2005 reported that in the twelve months surveyed there were approximately 692 million leisure visits made to the countryside and a further 72 million leisure visits made to the 'seaside coast'. Of these, 21.2 million trips were made to open access land which was introduced by the CROW Act and fully rolled out by October 2005.

Natural England is currently designing a new methodology for a day leisure visits survey and there is no further breakdown of figures available until the survey is published.

Due to differences in the methodologies, the figures in these surveys are not directly comparable.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Prison Service

7. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received on the pay scales of prison officers in the Northern Ireland prison service. [204422]

Paul Goggins: The pay scales for prison officers in the Northern Ireland Prison Service are recommended by the Prison Service Pay Review Body. The current scales were set as part of an agreed three year pay and efficiency agreement.

Security

8. **Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Northern Ireland. [204424]

Mr. Woodward: I welcome the publication of the 18th IMC report on 1 May indicating the continued significant improvement of the security situation in Northern Ireland.

I took that report into account in my recent review of specified organisations. I will lay today a draft order under the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998 which will result in the de-specification of the Ulster Volunteer Force/Red Hand Commandos and the specification of Oglaigh na hEireann.

Economy

9. **Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the prospects for the Northern Ireland economy. [204425]

Mr. Woodward: I have regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and we believe that the prospects for the Northern Ireland economy are very encouraging. Last week's successful US Investment Conference is an excellent illustration of Northern Ireland's potential for growth.

Criminal Justice and Policing: Devolution

10. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the devolution of criminal justice and policing to Northern Ireland. [204428]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are ready to transfer responsibility for policing and justice as soon as the Assembly requests this. The people of Northern Ireland want to see policing and justice devolve. Significant progress has been made on this since last May, not least with the publication of the Assembly's report which I laid before Parliament on 25 March 2008. I hope the parties will reach agreement on the timing without delay and complete the process of devolution.

PSNI

11. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Catholics were recruited as police officers by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [204429]

Paul Goggins: Between 29 April 2007 and 20 April 2008, 225 Catholic officers were recruited to the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Energy Performance Certificates: Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what role his Department had in the *(a)* introduction of energy performance certificates for the sale of existing residential dwellings in Northern Ireland and *(b)* decision not to introduce home information packs in respect of sales of residential properties in Northern Ireland. [202821]

Mr. Woodward: This is a devolved matter and the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Departments for Social Development and Finance and Personnel.

Prisoners: Self-Mutilation

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many instances of self-harm there were in each of Northern Ireland's prison and detention centres in each of the last three years. [204753]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Incidents of self-harm

Financial year	*HMP Maghaberry*	*HMP Magilligan*	*HMP Hydebank Wood*	*Total*
2005-06	94	14	93	201
2006-07	88	10	108	206
2007-08	69	11	101	181

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent to support adult learners completing their first full level three course in further education in each of the last five years. [205528]

Bill Rammell: Our ambition for higher intermediate skills (level 3) is critical to our future competitiveness and economic success. The Government's response to Leitch 'World Class Skills: implementing the Leitch

review of skills in England' (July, 2007) committed to the Leitch level 3 ambition, which equates to 1.9 million more adults achieving level 3 by 2020.

In terms of milestones, this will mean moving from 49.2 per cent. of the adult population (19+) with level 3 or higher qualifications in 2006 to 56 per cent. by 2011 and up to 68 per cent. by 2020.

Using actual and planned learner numbers on full level 3 qualifications it is possible to estimate the level of public funding invested in these qualifications. This estimate covers expenditure on all full level 3 qualifications as data are not collected on the number of learners undertaking a first full level 3 qualification. The following table sets out information from 2005-06 to 2010-11 based on the structure of the 2008-09 Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council. It covers the years that we are able to estimate on the overall level of investment in full level 3 qualifications.

Estimated public investment in adult (aged 19+) full level 3 qualifications

£000 (rounded to the nearest £ million)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Adult learner responsive model	248,000	254,000	268,000	313,000	373,000	412,000
Employer responsive model	36,000	42,000	88,000	143,000	168,000	362,000
Total	284,000	296,000	356,000	456,000	541,000	774,000

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what data he holds on the geographical distribution of apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement. [205319]

Mr. Lammy: Data on the geographical distribution of apprentices are derived from the home postcode of each individual apprentice. This enables geographical analysis at any level of aggregation for which a postcode definition is available. We routinely make data available at regional and local authority level. Postcode information for those on apprenticeships in the Army is recorded against a single central address for security reasons.

The 16 to 18 participation statistical first release, published in June each year by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, provides a regional breakdown of those on apprenticeships and further information by region is available on the Learning and Skills Council's website. The individualised learner record also holds postcode data about apprenticeship providers and the location the apprenticeship is delivered.

Apprentices: Employment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people who have completed apprenticeships since 1997 are presently unemployed; and how many of these are long-term unemployed. [205321]

Mr. Lammy: The Annual Population Survey (APS) can be used to provide estimates about the labour market status of people who have completed an apprenticeship. It does not collect information about when the apprenticeship was completed and does not distinguish between publicly funded and other types of apprenticeship. Estimates from the APS show that of those people in England aged 16-35 in 2006 who had completed an apprenticeship 22,000 were unemployed according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition. This represents an ILO unemployment rate of 3.3 per cent. Around 8,000 of the 22,000 had been ILO unemployed for at least six months

Astronomy: Research

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much expenditure from the public purse was spent on research in *(a)* astronomy and *(b)* space science for 2007-08; and how much is planned to be spent for 2008-09; and what records he holds on comparative expenditure in other OECD states. [205313]

Ian Pearson: The Government provide funding to the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) to support research and related postgraduate training in particle physics, astronomy, space science, nuclear physics, synchrotron radiation, neutron sources and high power lasers. STFC's expenditure on research in astronomy and space science is set out below. The Government do not hold records of comparative expenditure in other OECD states.

Expenditure

£000

	(i) 2007-08[1]	(ii) 2008-09[2]
(a) Astronomy	57,812	71,042
(b) Space Science	95,592	108,385

[1] Figures for 2007/08 are based on current end of year figures.
[2] Figures for 2008/09 are based on the provisional budget.

Further Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average cost of a further education level 3 course is. [205529]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have a national funding rate for each level 3 qualification. The funding rate is based on the number of hours required to complete the course and includes a national fee assumption so that learners (not eligible for full fee remission) will contribute to the cost of the course. For the 2007/08 academic year the national fee assumption is 37.5 per cent. of the national funding rate.

The following table sets out the national funding rate for the most popular level 3 qualifications and the national fee assumption related to that type of qualification.

National funding rate and fee assumption for level 3 courses

£

Course type	National base rate[1]	Fee assumption (37.5 per cent.)
Key Skills	237	89
AS or A2 level (daytime study)	843	317
Applied AS or A2 level (daytime study)	2,641	990
GNVQ	2,641	990

National funding rate and fee assumption for level 3 courses

£

Course type	National base rates[1]	Fee assumption (37.5 per cent.)
Edexcel/OCR National Diploma	6,333	2,375
Edexcel/OCR National Certificate	5,103	1,913
Access to HE	3,051	1,144

[1] Figures relate to duration of course rather than providing a per year rate as course lengths vary

While the national fee assumption is taken into account in the calculation of funding rates, it is for colleges and providers to determine the actual level of fee charged. It is therefore not possible to provide an average cost of a further education course to the learner.

In relation to the cost to the Department the average cost of a full level 3 course per year has been estimated at around £1,500 per year for the financial year 2007-08.

Higher Education: Northamptonshire

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to establish a multi-campus university in North Northamptonshire. [205709]

Bill Rammell: We want to give everyone who has the talent the chance to go to university whether they are about to leave school or already in work. Students should have access to local provision offering flexible courses to suit their needs. We are therefore delighted by the interest that our new university challenge has generated. This policy also offers places the opportunity to unlock the potential in their area by working with those involved in regeneration and economic planning to provide locally-based HE provision. We have already agreed to meet delegations from towns in North Northamptonshire to discuss these issues. Any proposals for new university campuses or centres of HE will be assessed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Job Creation: EU Economic Policy

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of jobs created as a direct consequence of the Lisbon Agenda; at what cost per job; and if he will make a statement. [205326]

Mr. Lammy: The Lisbon Strategy for Jobs and Growth was re-launched in 2005 and in that period employment has increased by almost 6.5 million in the EU. Exchange of best practice between member states, on policies owned nationally, is at the heart of the strategy but focused on outcomes not costs.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2807W, on departmental manpower, how many of his Department's staff under 18 years old were receiving at least one day's training per week in the most recent period for which figures are available. [204840]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on how many of the Department's under 18-years-old were receiving at least one day's training per week is not held centrally; this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees in his Department *(a)* contracted out of and *(b)* contributed to SERPS/S2P in each year since 2001-02, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) age cohort. [195456]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Such information as is readily obtainable is given as follows.

The Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme (PCSPS) is a 'contracted out' scheme. However, women aged over 60 and men aged over 65 cannot contract out of S2P. All other employees would be automatically contracted out of S2P unless they decided not to join the scheme.

We are unable to extract data for a number of staff during 2006-07 as this information is held on a legacy system, which could be accessed only at disproportionate cost. The available data is contained in the tables and is for the tax year 2006-07 relating to 91,504 staff and 2007-08 relating to 125,476 staff, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) age cohort.

Number contracted in at end of 2006-07 tax year

Gender	Age band 1 (under 21)	Age band 2 (21-25)	Age band 3 (26-30)	Age band 4 (31-35)	Age band 5 (36-40)	Age band 6 (41-45)	Age band 7 (46+)	Total
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,765	1,765
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	147	147
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,912	1,912

Note:
No data prior to age band 7 available from data source due to disproportionate costs.
Source:
FAMIS (INGRES).

Number contracted in at end of 2007-08 tax year

Gender	Age band 1 (under 21)	Age band 2 (21-25)	Age band 3 (26-30)	Age band 4 (31-35)	Age band 5 (36-40)	Age band 6 (41-45)	Age band 7 (46+)	Total
Female	129	411	235	140	112	118	2,893	4,038
Male	99	271	187	105	82	92	498	1,334
Total	228	682	422	245	194	210	3,391	5,372

Source:
Resource Management (RM) Payroll.

Number contracted out at end of 2006-07 tax year

Gender	Age band 1 (under 21)	Age band 2 (21-25)	Age band 3 (26-30)	Age band 4 (31-35)	Age band 5 (36-40)	Age band 6 (41-45)	Age band 7 (46+)	Total
Female	684	2,837	5,418	7,116	10,080	11,793	23,342	61,270
Male	272	1,404	2,559	3,109	4,163	4,609	12,206	28,322
Total	956	4,241	7,977	10,225	14,243	16,402	35,548	89,592

Source:
FAMIS (INGRES).

Number contracted out at end of 2007-08 tax year

Gender	Age band 1 (under 21)	Age band 2 (21-25)	Age band 3 (26-30)	Age band 4 (31-35)	Age band 5 (36-40)	Age band 6 (41-45)	Age band 7 (46+)	Total
Female	245	2,983	6,838	8,280	12,318	16,500	35,632	82,796
Male	109	1,512	3,208	3,795	5,039	6,196	17,449	37,308
Total	354	4,495	10,046	12,075	17,357	22,696	53,081	120,104

Source:
Resource Management (RM) Payroll.

Departmental Sick Leave

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of *(a)* sickness and *(b)* unauthorised absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each year since 1996-97; what targets are in place for a reduction in sickness and unauthorised absence; and if he will make a statement. [200815]

Mrs. McGuire: The information available is provided in the following tables:

Sickness Absence

The Department for Work and Pensions was created in July 2001. The overall figures prior to this date relate to absence levels in the Department of Social Security (DSS) Group (the main predecessor to the DWP) and the Employment Service. A comprehensive breakdown of DSS' agencies' figures prior to 2001 is not available.

The figures relate to working days lost per staff year and are taken from the report titled Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service, which was published annually by the Cabinet Office.

The DWP has a sickness absence target of 7.7 days per staff year to be achieved by April 2010. Each of the DWP businesses contributes to achieving the overall DWP target.

Department	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Employment Service	—	11.5	11.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DSS Group	10.8	10.9	11.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appeals Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Child Support Agency	—	—	—	11.0	11.6	13.8	11.6	11.2	13.9	—
Disability and Carers Service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9.0	12.1	—
Employment Service	—	—	—	12.8	13.5	—	—	—	—	—
Job Centre Plus (Benefits Agency pre-2002)	—	—	—	10.6	10.8	12.0	9.8	10.3	11.1	—
Pensions Service	—	—	—	—	—	10.5	9.5	9.3	10.0	—
DWP Other	—	—	—	9.4	10.1	9.8	8.1	9.4	9.8	—
DWP Overall	—	—	—	11.1	10.8	11.6	9.6	10.1	11.1	10.3

Unauthorised Absence

Prior to April 2007, we are only able to provide figures for unauthorised absences specifically due to industrial action. From April 2007, a new personnel computer system was introduced that records all types of unauthorised absence, including industrial action. Therefore, the 2007-08 figures include all types of unauthorised absence.

The Department does not have a specific target related to unauthorised absence.

Department	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Jobcentre Plus (BA/ES)	154,928	97,038	134	179,822	0	109,430	116,188	78,054
Child Support Agency	0	14	0	25,073	0	14,665	16,182	9,850
Pensions Service[1]	0	38	0	50,331	0	23,367	21,467	15,415
Disability and Carers Service[1]	0	0	0	14,917	0	8,143	8,402	3,528
Corporate Centre	0	2	0	16,790	0	8,996	8,631	4,989
DWP Total	154,928	97,112	134	286,933	0	164,601	170,870	111,836

[1] From 1 April 2008 The Pension Service and Disability and Carers Service combined. Figures for industrial action on 24 April 2008 have been included in the total for the Pension Service.

Departmental Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to encourage volunteering among its employees in the last three years. [204929]

Mrs. McGuire: The DWP has actively encouraged volunteering by introducing an employer-supported volunteering scheme—Community 5000—and by our policies on public and community leave.

Community 5000 enables individuals and teams to give their working time and skills to voluntary and community organisations of relevance to our customers. Our aspiration is to give 5,000 days of the Department's time each year to the Third Sector through our DWP volunteers, improving our people's understanding of customers' needs and encouraging wider involvement in the community.

In addition to Community 5000, the Department has also long encouraged participation in the local community with a provision to apply for paid public and community leave for serving in a voluntary organisation that provides a service to the local community, such as the Lifeboat Service and Special Constabulary.

Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice has been given to staff handling disability living allowance appeals about the use of standard letter CAP22a. [204995]

Mrs. McGuire: The Pension, Disability and Carers Service recently established that instructions to staff in connection with appeals and the use of the standard letter CAP22a was incorrect. That guidance was withdrawn and instructions about the correct procedure were issued to all decision makers on 21 April 2008.

The new instructions direct that, where the customer has completed form GL24 to authorise another person to act for them in an appeal and the customer has also signed the form overleaf as the appellant, the appeal is valid and the representative's signature does not also need to be obtained.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much in housing benefit has been paid to tenants of *(a)* housing associations and *(b)* local authorities and local authority arms length management organisations since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of payments in each of those years of tenants transferring from council management to registered social landlords as part of stock transfers. [203535]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information for local authorities and registered social landlords is in the table.

Information is not available separately for arms length management organisations.

We have not made an estimate of the cost to public funds of paying the housing benefit of tenants transferred from council tenancies to registered social landlords since 1997. To determine such a figure would require detailed assumptions about the rents each authority might theoretically have charged had it retained the stock. However, the potential impact on housing benefit where stock is transferred to registered social landlords is considered as part of the overall value-for-money assessment of transfers.

Housing benefit paid to tenants of local authorities and registered social landlords (RSL)

£ million

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Local authority expenditure	5,498	5,405	5,345	5,258	5,282
RSL expenditure	2,242	2,480	2,753	3,053	3,482

Housing benefit paid to tenants of local authorities and registered social landlords (RSL)

£ million

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	20005-06	20006-07
Local authority expenditure	5,405	5,027	5,200	5,263	5,368
RSL expenditure	4,199	4,291	4,603	4,950	5,328

Notes:

1. The figures are nominal costs for the whole of Great Britain.
2. The figures are total amounts paid to beneficiaries, irrespective of the source of funding, and include benefit spending reimbursed by DWP, spending on rent rebates financed within local authorities' housing revenue accounts, and benefit spending financed from local authorities' general funds.
3 The figures reflect the latest benefit-by-benefit estimate of out-turn, and not the amounts voted by Parliament.
4. Figures for 1999-2000 onwards are on a resource accounting and budgeting basis. There may be differences between figures quoted in these tables and those quoted in Department for Work and Pensions accounts.
5. Figures for past years may have changed since previous publication due to changes in methodology and the incorporation of more up-to-date information.
6. Figures exclude asylum seekers from April 1999, since when the National Asylum Support Service has reimbursed DWP for benefits paid to asylum seekers.
7. Separation of rent allowance into private rental sector and registered social landlord elements is an estimate derived from the quarterly administrative data on caseloads and average awards, and the figures should therefore be treated as indicative.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse in additional housing benefit payments which would arise from each £1 increase in council and registered social landlord rents. [203664]

Mr. Plaskitt: The increased yearly cost in additional housing benefit payments for each £1 increase in council and registered social landlord rents is estimated to be around £165 million.

Notes:

1. The estimated cost is rounded to the nearest £5 million.
2. The estimated cost is based on a £1 increase in weekly rent.
3. The estimated cost does not include floaters-on as a result of a £1 increase in rent.

Source: Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in February 2007.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit have had their benefit backdated by between three and 12 months. [203685]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Our ability to provide this breakdown is restricted by the breadth and reliability of the data available to us.

As part of the Equality Impact Assessment, we have provided an estimate of the proportion of housing benefit and council tax benefit case loads affected by the proposals to reduce the backdating facilities to three months. There are, however, important caveats to these estimates which must be noted.

A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment has been placed in the Library. It is also available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/PC-HB-CTB-EIA-Apr08.pdf

Figures on the number of successful backdating claims are derived from the Single Housing Benefit Extract (HBSD-IAD scan). The backdating variable in the Single Housing Benefit Extract was introduced relatively recently in April 2007 and accordingly we have no means of corroborating the data's robustness against historical data. Furthermore, given that the data only goes back six months, we currently have an insufficient pool of evidence to derive reliable figures from the data. These concerns should be allayed with time as the scan data improves.

Based on the first six months of data available, it is estimated that approximately 0.2 per cent. of new housing benefit and council tax benefit claims would be affected. These figures may be subject to revision as more data becomes available.

Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of workplace deaths in the construction industry resulted in *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* conviction in each year since 1997. [198837]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows:

(a) The most up-to-date figures on the percentage of construction industry workplace deaths in Great Britain, for each of the years between 1999-2000 to 2006-07, that have resulted in a prosecution, are shown in the following table.

	Number of deaths	*Number of deaths resulting in a prosecution*	*Percentage*
1999-2000	87	33	37
2000-01	113	42	37
2001-02	85	27	32
2002-03	75	30	40
2003-04	75	33	44
2004-05	77	33	43
2005-06	64	12	19
2006-07	84	8	10

The numbers of prosecutions for later years, particularly 2005-06 and 2006-07, will increase as it can be a number of years after the fatality before the resulting prosecution comes to court.

The fatality figures are based on deaths reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.

(b) The most up-to-date figures on the percentage of convictions (based on the numbers of prosecution cases raised), relating to the above construction industry fatalities in Great Britain, are shown in the following table.

	Number of prosecution cases raised	*Number of guilty convictions*	*Percentage*
1999-2000	44	39	89
2000-01	68	59	87
2001-02	42	32	76
2002-03	45	33	73
2003-04	59	45	76
2004-05	59	45	76
2005-06	17	14	82
2006-07	9	All cases ongoing	—

These figures show the numbers of prosecution cases which have been raised and convictions for those cases completed. For a number of deaths, more than one prosecution case has been raised.

The numbers of cases raised and number of convictions for later years, particularly 2005-06 and 2006-07, will increase as it can be a number of years after the fatality before the related prosecution cases are heard by the courts.

All current prosecution cases relating to fatalities in 2006/07 are still progressing through the courts and have not yet reached a verdict.

Detailed information is only available in the form requested from 1999-2000 onwards and published figures for fatalities in 2007-08 are not yet available.

International Labour Organisation: Anniversaries

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress he has made on the development of plans to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the International Labour Organisation in 2009. [203771]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have held initial discussions with the International Labour Organisation on how we might commemorate its 90th anniversary, and are currently considering how best to develop our ideas.

Jobseekers Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median length of a claim for jobseekers allowance; [203268]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median length of a claim for jobseekers allowance for a claimant who has (i) a drink or drug addiction and (ii) a mental health condition. [203269]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information on average durations of jobseeker's allowance claims is not available broken down by medical condition. The available information is in the table.

Average claim durations of jobseeker's allowance leavers —March 2008

	Weeks
Median duration	9.2
Estimated mean duration	18.5

Notes:
1. Median and mean durations are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Mean durations are not recommended to be used when dealing with skewed distribution such as duration of claim. In these cases, the median is a better measure of 'average' than the arithmetic mean.
Source:
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will arrange for the Child Support Agency to send a reply to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 31 March 2008 concerning a constituent, ref: JC962664A. [202908]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Susan Park, dated 14 May 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave, I am responding, with his authority on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will arrange for the Child Support Agency to send a reply to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 31st March 2008 concerning a constituent ref: JC962664A. [202908]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

Pension Disability and Carers Service: Public Appointments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 589-90W, on Pension Disability and Carers Service: public appointments, if he will break down the £2,350 spent on recruiting the chief executive. [204471]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* The expenditure of £2,350 comprised a professional fee of £2,000 plus £350 VAT for the psychometric assessment of shortlisted candidates.

Remploy

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to ensure that Remploy's procurement targets are being met. [202900]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* It is Remploy's responsibility to ensure its procurement targets are met.

However, the Department is leading work with Remploy, Trade Unions, Office of Government Commerce and British Association for Supported Employment using Article 19 of the new public sector procurement Directive as a means of securing more public sector contracts for Supported Businesses including Remploy through the Public Procurement Regulations.

The Department has established an Implementation Monitoring Group which includes representatives from Remploy, Trade Unions and the Department. The group tracks progress against the modernisation plan, including procurement.

Officials also chair a quarterly review meeting with the Remploy executive team to discuss performance against targets.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what cost savings were made by Remploy management in each of the last five years. [202901]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The changes in the total costs of Remploy businesses and central costs (outturn prices) since April 2003 are in the table.

£ million

	Total costs	Cumulative change since 2003 +/-	Yearly changes in costs +/-
2002-03	158.8	—	—
2003-04	148.1	-10.7	-10.7
2004-05	157.2	-1.6	+9.1
2005-06	155.0	-3.8	-2.2
2006-07	154.8	-4.0	-0.2
2007-08	150.1	-8.7	-4.7

Source:
Remploy Management Information

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on *(a)* redundancy payments and *(b)* other costs associated with redundancy in respect of each closed Remploy factory. [202902]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* Information about the other costs associated with redundancy in respect of each closed Remploy factory is not available.

The available information about redundancy payments is in the following table.

Total redundancy payments to end April 2008

	£
Aintree	1,287,005
Barnsley	608,956
Bradford	328,944
Brixton	844,129
Brynamman	235,455
CCU	950,932
Chandlers Ford	98,925
Halifax	313,447
Hartlepool	1,174,275
Hillington	696,164
Hull	715,355
Jarrow	491,750
Leatherhead	287,311
Lydney	350,613
Mansfield	1,242,239
Medway	771,775
Newcastle-under-Lyme	461,373
Pinxton	1,603,036
Plymouth	525,807

Total redundancy payments to end April 2008

	£
Redruth	366,447
Southend	330,523
St. Helens	4,297,883
Stockport	799,235
Stockton	804,650
Treforest	1,443,502
Wisbech	219,298
Woolwich	724,270
York	704,007
Ystradgynlais	199,263

Source:
Remploy management information.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff have successfully *(a)* transferred from one Remploy factory to another and *(b)* unsuccessfully applied for transfer following closure of a Remploy factory. [202903]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The number of disabled people who have transferred from one Remploy factory to another is 185.

All disabled people eligible to apply for transfer (that is in the 11 Remploy merging sites) were given the opportunity to do so.

Social Security Benefits: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the procedures by which decisions are made on whether those suffering from myalgic encephalopathy/chronic fatigue syndrome should be allowed benefits with a view to reducing the number of such decisions which subsequently go to appeal. [203916]

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the procedures by which judgement is made on whether those suffering from myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome should be allowed benefits in order to reduce the number of appeals and successful appeals. [203973]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer my hon. Friends to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 588W.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how *(a)* the provisions of the Welfare Reform Act 2007 and *(b)* the guidance on disability living allowance published in July 2007 will improve access to benefits for people with myalgic encephalopathy/chronic fatigue syndrome. [203917]

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how *(a)* the provisions of the Welfare Reform Act 2007 and *(b)* the guidance on disability living allowance published in July 2007 will improve access to benefits for people with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome who go to appeal to get benefits. [203972]

Mrs. McGuire: The Welfare Reform Act 2007 provides for the new employment and support allowance, which will be supported by the new work capability assessment.

The new work capability assessment will be a fair, robust and accurate assessment of a person's capability for work, reflecting the activities needed in today's workplace and concentrating on what people can do rather than what they cannot do. The current personal capability assessment needed a thorough review to ensure that the new assessment is up-to-date and accurate, and that it will identify those people who should be entitled to employment and support allowance, including those with long term-and fluctuating conditions such as myalgic encephalopathy.

The work capability assessment is not a snapshot of a person's condition on the day of the assessment. In assessing whether a person can carry out any given activity, healthcare professionals must take into account the person's condition over a reasonable period of time. If there is a change in a person's disabling condition, there will be a provision to refer the person to an approved healthcare professional so that we can determine afresh whether or not the person has limited capability for work, or limited capability for work-related activity.

The disability living allowance guidance on myalgic encephalopathy and chronic fatigue syndrome was developed in conjunction with a group of experts in this area of medicine. It gives benefit decision-makers a greater understanding of this illness and the consequent care needs and mobility difficulties, and will enable them to make better-informed decisions on a person's entitlement to disability living allowance.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that assessments for the new employment and support allowance take account of the fluctuating state of health which is characteristic of people who have myalgic encephalopathy/chronic fatigue syndrome. [203918]

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that assessments for the new employment and support allowance take account of the fluctuating health cycle characteristic of people who have myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome. [203975]

Mr. Timms: I refer my hon. Friends to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 44W.

Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 9th January 2008, *Official Report*, column 574W, on social security benefits: personal records, how many employees have access to the database for benefits administered by his Department. [200829]

Mrs. McGuire: Social Security administration is carried out using many different databases, and the information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

State Retirement Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people had their pension credit payments ended for remaining abroad for more that four weeks at a time in each year since 2003; and what the average amount of time was for payments to be restarted once such a claimant had returned to the UK in each of those years; [197480]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of extending from four to 13 weeks the amount of time that a claimant can be abroad before their pension credit payments are ended. [197481]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of pension credit claims that end because the recipient has gone abroad for more than four weeks is not collected.

For planning purposes we estimate that around 50,000 pension credit recipients go abroad for between four and 13 weeks each year, based on data from the International Passenger Survey on the number of visits abroad by length of stay for the general population of people aged 65 and over.

Customers would have to make a new claim for pension credit on their return, processed in the usual way. This is burdensome for both the customer and the Pensions Disability and Carers Service staff.

Extending the period to 13 weeks will be of sufficient duration to allow nearly 90 per cent. of those customers who would otherwise have had their pension credit stopped after four weeks of a temporary absence, to retain entitlement.

We estimated that the net cost of extending the absence abroad period from four to 13 weeks over this comprehensive spending review period could be around £2 million in each full year from introduction.

The proposal to extend the period of time people can go abroad and still keep their pension credit from four to 13 weeks forms part of a package of pension measures that will make claiming benefit entitlements simpler and less intrusive and deliver extra support to pensioners. Taken together the wider package of measures represents more than £500 million of additional spending on pensioners over the next three years.

Notes:

1. Estimates represent combined administrative and benefit costs/savings.

2. Estimated costs and savings are consistent with the 2008 Budget settlement but it should be noted that they are based on a set of assumptions and are subject to change as new data becomes available.

TREASURY

Capital Allowances: Enterprise Zones

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1668W, on capital allowances: enterprise zones, what the estimated cost is of the enterprise zone allowances to the Exchequer in 2008-09; and what estimate his Department has made of the increase in tax receipts in the first full year that the allowances are withdrawn. [204884]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated annual cost of the special industrial buildings allowances for enterprise zones is published in the tax ready reckoner produced by HMRC each year. This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

The revenue yield in the first year after abolition (2011-12) is expected to be £15 million, followed by £50 million in 2012-13.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 1669W, on council tax: valuation, what *(a)* property attributes and *(b)* data sets the banding support tool uses to identify comparable properties. [204883]

Jane Kennedy: The banding support tool has the capability to use *(a)* all available dwelling house coding attributes and *(b)* all current bandings in order to provide the closest matches to inform decision-making.

Council Tax: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 899W, on the Valuation Office: Wales, when the automated valuation model capabilities will come into operation in Wales; what the budgeted cost is; and what work is being undertaken by Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies on the project. [204869]

Jane Kennedy: AVM capabilities to support work in connection with the maintenance of the current (2005) council tax lists in Wales is under development. It is not subject to any timetabling and is being taken forward as resources allow with costs being contained within existing operational budgets.

No work is being undertaken by Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies on this project although they provide technical support as the third party supplier of OASIS software.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consequential amendments have been made to council tax banding, in terms of number of households, since the 2005 council tax revaluation in Wales in each local authority area in Wales according to Valuation Office Agency records. [204886]

Jane Kennedy: The VOA is currently in the process of updating its website statistics to show all cases where the listing officer has made a change to the 2005 council tax lists in Wales since 1 April 2005, as a result of an inquiry or an appeal.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Government have for the use of revenues received by the UK from the auctioning of emission allowances in future phases of the European emissions trading scheme. [204967]

Angela Eagle: The framework for future phases of EU ETS are currently under discussion and as such no structure for auctioning in future phases has been decided. The revised EU ETS directive is due to be finalised later this year.

Any revenue raised through the use of auctioning would be considered part of general revenue streams, and the spending review process ensures that resources are allocated efficiently to deliver Government objectives.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors were taken into account in making the decision to remove the exemption from higher rates of vehicle excise duty from vehicles first registered after March 2001; what consultation he undertook before removing the exemption; and if he will make a statement. [205019]

Angela Eagle: Budget 2008 announced reform of the Vehicle Excise Duty structure with new rate bands from 2009 and a new higher first-year rate from 2010 to influence purchasing choices. The Government's policy on exemptions from Vehicle Excise Duty has remained unchanged and existing nil rates will remain in force.

The Government take rates decisions as part of the routine Budget process. Budget 2008 decisions will therefore introduce rates from 2009-10 which are appropriate and apply consistently to all cars across the emissions spectrum—the more polluting the vehicle, the more vehicle excise duty it will pay. In taking such rates decisions the Government considers a range of factors, including relevant environmental, social and economic factors.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which (a) cars and (b) vans will be subject to an increase in vehicle excise duty in the 2009-10 financial year, broken down by (i) make and model of vehicle and (ii) size of engine; and if he will make a statement; [205303]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the proposed increase in excise duty on certain vehicles in the next financial year; and if he will make a statement. [205304]

Angela Eagle: The information requested on each individual variant of each model of car or van could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Individual vehicle owners may determine the rate applicable to their vehicle in 2009-10 by reference to the vehicle's registration document and table A8a of the Budget report. In addition, cars that emit more than 225 g CO_2 per km but were first registered before 23 March 2006 will be placed in Band K in 2009-10—and will continue to benefit from a reduced rate, and only in 2010-11 will these cars be placed into the band (L or M) that corresponds to the car's actual CO_2 emissions.

Treasury Ministers engage with their ministerial colleagues in shared policy areas as a matter of routine as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Fuels: Aviation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue which would accrue in 2008-09 if value added tax were levied on aviation fuel at 17.5 per cent. [205195]

Jane Kennedy: VAT is already charged on aviation fuel supplied for flights within the UK at either the standard rate of 17.5 per cent or reduced rate of 5 per cent. depending on the type and quantity of fuel being supplied. However, under the normal rules of VAT, the tax charged can be reclaimed by a VAT registered airline or other business to the extent that it relates to their taxable business activities.

Aviation fuel supplied for use on intra-community or international flights is VAT zero-rated. However, even if our international agreements allowed the UK to impose VAT it could also be reclaimed subject to the normal rules.

HM Revenue and Customs does not hold sufficient information with which to make an estimate of the revenue that would otherwise accrue.

Income Tax: Low Incomes

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* England, *(c)* Greater Manchester, *(d)* Stockport Borough and *(e)* Cheadle constituency which will be (i) better off, (ii) worse off and (iii) unaffected as a result of the abolition of the 10 pence starting rate of income tax. [200418]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* The removal of the 10p rate is part of a package of reforms announced in Budget 2007.

It is not possible to estimate the impact of the reform package below Government office region level.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue that would be raised in 2008-09 if the upper limit on national insurance contributions were abolished. [205248]

Jane Kennedy: The yield from removing the upper earnings limit for employees Class 1 National Insurance contributions is around £8.5 billion for 2008-09. This estimate includes the yield from the consequent increase in the upper profit limit for Class 4 contributions paid by the self employed, and the cost of the increase in employee and employer rebates for contracting out of state second pension.

This excludes any estimate of behavioural effects which could be significant given the scale of the change.

The estimate is consistent with Budget 2008 assumptions and assumes that the NHS allocation contribution rates are unchanged.

Non-domestic Rates: Licensed Premises

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report,* columns 509-10W, on valuation: licensed premises, if he will place in the Library the latest edition of the full Rating Manual. [204870]

Jane Kennedy: The Rating Manual is available on the Valuation Office Agency's website (www.voa.gov.uk).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report,* columns 509-10W, on valuation: licensed premises, whether the section of the Rating Manual has been rewritten. [204871]

Jane Kennedy: The Rating Manual section on public houses, licensed restaurants and wine bars is being rewritten in conjunction with preparations for the 2010 Revaluation. It is intended to have this complete by the end of October this year. At that time it will be published on the Valuation Office Agency's website to replace the existing section.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's document Valuation of Public Houses: Approved Guide in use for the 2010 non-domestic rates revaluation. [204891]

Jane Kennedy: No such document currently exists.

Part-time Employment: Students

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs has made of the number of full-time students who receive an income from working part-time. [204889]

Jane Kennedy: Based on figures published by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, HM Revenue and Customs estimates that 1.7 million students in full-time education were in employment for part of the year during 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken was for letters to be sent out by HM Revenue and Customs arising from enquiries to their 0845 enquiry numbers in the latest period for which figures are available. [203309]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information is not available. However HM Revenue and Customs aim to deal with 80 per cent. of general correspondence within 15 working days of receipt and 95 per cent. within 40 working days.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1684-85W, on stamp duties, whether an impact assessment was produced in relation to introducing charging by an energy assessor to assess whether a dwelling meets the standard. [204881]

Kitty Ussher: There is not a separate impact assessment on charges to assess whether a dwelling meets the zero-carbon standard for the purposes of the stamp duty land tax relief. However, an impact assessment was published at Budget 2007 when details of the stamp duty land tax relief for new zero-carbon homes was announced. This can be found on HMRC's website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/9-zero-carbon-homes.pdf

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Shared Ownership Schemes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1685-86W, on stamp duty land tax: shared ownership schemes (1) whether *(a)* Social Homebuy and *(b)* New Build Homebuy are shared ownership or shared equity schemes for the purposes of the stamp duty land tax rule; [204880]

(2) whether the homebuyer, when purchasing the final 20 per cent. of the equity, having previously purchased up to 80 per cent., will be required to pay stamp duty on 100 per cent. of the property's total capital value or only the final 20 per cent. [204882]

Kitty Ussher: Both social homebuy and new build homebuy are shared ownership schemes.

When the homebuyer in a shared ownership arrangement purchases the final 20 per cent. of a property, having previously purchased 80 per cent. free of SDLT, they will only pay stamp duty land tax on the final 20 per cent. of the property.

State Retirement Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of restoring the link between the basic state pension and earnings in each year between 2009 and 2015. [200259]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Current baseline projections of expenditure on pensioner benefits assume that the basic state pension is increased by earnings from 2012. The net additional cost of increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2009 in each year between 2009-10 and 2015-16 is given in the table as follows:

Net additional annual cost of increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2009-10

	£ billion, 2008-09 prices
2009-10	0.3
2010-11	1.2
2011-12	1.9
2012-13	1.9
2013-14	2.0

Net additional annual cost of increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2009-10

	£ billion, 2008-09 prices
2014-15	2.1
2015-16	2.1

Notes:
1. Estimates are additional to the baseline assumption of increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2012. During the next Parliament, we will re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament.
2. Estimates are presented in net terms reflecting that the estimated savings from reduced income related benefit payments (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit) have been deducted. The proportions of additional expenditure saved through reduced income related benefit payments have been estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model and are assumed to remain constant over time.
3. In the financial years up to and including 2013-14 Treasury Economic assumptions consistent with Budget 2008 have been used to model earnings uprating. After this point a long term earnings growth assumption of 4.93 per cent. has been applied.
4. Estimates are in 2008-09 prices and have been rounded to the nearest £100 million.

Source:
DWP modelling

Taxation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's technical definition of a revenue-neutral tax change is. [204873]

Jane Kennedy: A tax policy change is revenue-neutral if the net total of the change does not result in a change in forecast Exchequer receipts over the forecast period. All tax policy changes with revenue implications of more than £5 million a year over the forecast period are set out in table A1 of the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on levels of aviation duty on flights between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. [204417]

Angela Eagle: At pre-Budget report 2007, the Government announced that they intended to replace air passenger duty with a duty payable per plane, rather than per passenger. This reform will take place on 1 November 2009 and has the objective of sending better environmental signals, and also ensuring that aviation makes a greater contribution to covering its environmental costs, while ensuring that a fair level of revenue is raised from the sector in order to support public services.

The public consultation on the design of the new duty opened on 31 January 2008 and closed on 24 April. The Government have received a number of responses to date, including one from the Northern Ireland Executive. All of these responses—including that from the Northern Ireland—will be carefully analysed by HM Treasury before final announcements on the design of the duty are made.

Taxation: Interest Charges

Mr. Hoban: To askther Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints HM Revenue and Customs received in respect of late payment interest charges on tax payments which were not late in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available. [204924]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HMRC processes payments and updates customers' accounts within 24 hours of receiving them in the vast majority of cases.

In a small number of cases, we are unable to credit customers' accounts immediately, usually because the payment is received with insufficient information, for example, if the payment reference number has been omitted or is not shown correctly.

In such cases the payments are allocated to a suspense account while enquiries are made to establish the account or record that is to be credited. Where such a payment is made on the due date for the tax, it is therefore possible that interest will be charged while the payment is in the suspense account. However, once the payment is allocated correctly the interest charge will be cancelled.

Every payment application or Notice to Pay issued by HMRC carries full 'How to pay' guidance. This clearly sets out the information needed to allocate payments correctly. An expanded version of this guidance is available on the HMRC website and is accessible on www.hmrc.co.uk. Any customer with queries on interest charges raised can phone the Payment Helpline for advice.

Taxation: Land

Mr. Pickles: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have conducted into land value taxation. [204890]

Jane Kennedy: The Treasury has responsibility for tax policy. The Treasury keeps a range of tax options under consideration in the course of its policy making process.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 899W, on the Valuation Office, what the value impact, in numerical terms, of each value significant code is, as identified during the calibration of the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model. [203121]

Jane Kennedy: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1144W, on the Valuation Office, on what dates other than 22 November 2005 the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England) has met. [204872]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's Programme Board for the now postponed council tax revaluation generally met monthly between March 2003 and November 2005.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1688W, on the Valuation Office, how many households in England received a visit from a Valuation Office Agency official in each year since 2003 for which figures are available. [204878]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency uses Cole Layer Trumble's *(a)* OASIS, *(b)* ORION and *(c)* iAnalyze products. [204888]

Jane Kennedy: *(a)* Yes *(b)* No *(c)* No.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1688W, on Valuation Office: ICT, how many localities there are in each individual billing authority area in England. [204866]

Jane Kennedy: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1688W, on Valuation Office: ICT, what correspondence there is between the boundaries of localities and other *(a)* local government or *(b)* statistical geographical divisions. [204867]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister for Local Government on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1600W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model is used for the valuation of houses for *(a)* right-to-buy sales and *(b)* inheritance tax. [204892]

Jane Kennedy: It is not used for the purposes specified.

Valuation Office: Measuring Instruments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1689-90W, on the Valuation Office: measuring instruments, what the reasons were for the differences in expenditure in 2007-08 and 2006-07. [204874]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) undertakes various types of valuation and surveying work on behalf of a number of public sector clients for a wide range of purposes and requires the appropriate professional equipment to perform these roles effectively.

At the end of 2007-08, the VOA placed an order for 1,100 laser measures across the network, to include both additional and replacement units, where the current units were beyond their economic life. This bulk order has contributed to the increase in expenditure on surveying equipment from 2006-07.

Laser measures are used in all work areas, including non domestic rating, council tax and district valuer services.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1689-90W, on the Valuation Office: measuring instruments, if he will place in the Library the invoices for the purchases in 2007-08. [204875]

Jane Kennedy: The tendered contract price for individual items is commercial in confidence. I am therefore unable to place copies of the invoices in the Library, as they contain information regarding the cost of specific items.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1689-90W, on the Valuation Office: measuring instruments, who the designated supplier is. [204876]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) contracted supplier of surveying equipment is Survey Express Services Ltd (SFS), based in Catford, London.

Valuation Office: Publications

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 399W, on the Valuation Office Agency, if he will place in the Library copies of the Agency's staff magazine produced since June 2007. [204868]

Jane Kennedy: The Agency has produced no staff magazines since June 2007.

Valuation Office: Video Recordings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1690W, on the Valuation Office: video recordings, what the *(a)* title and *(b)* purpose was of the video produced since January. [204877]

Jane Kennedy: The title of the video was the "start of year message". Its purpose was for the VOA chief executive to set out the year ahead for staff at the Agency.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 42W, on tax credits, what the highest possible income is which a family which *(a)* claims and *(b)* does not claim the disability element for any

children or adults with (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) more than four children while being eligible for the child care element of the working tax credit. [204920]

Jane Kennedy: The highest level of income at which a family with maximum child care costs could benefit from the child care element depends on the number of adults and children in the household who claim the disability element, and whether they also claim the severe disability element.

The following table shows some examples based on different numbers of children in the family, and different members of the family claiming the disability element. They are based on the maximum eligible child care costs of £175 per week for one child, and £300 per week for two or more children. All incomes are rounded down to the nearest £1,000.

Highest level of income at which a family could benefit from the child care element

£

Individuals claiming disability element within the family	*Number of children in the family*				
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
No-one	41,000	68,000	73,000	78,000	84,000
1 adult	47,000	74,000	79,000	84,000	90,000
1 child	48,000	74,000	79,000	85,000	90,000
1 adult and 1 child	62,000	80,000	86,000	91,000	96,000

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Blasphemy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made towards bringing forward proposals to abolish the offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel. [205302]

Mr. Dhanda: Section 79 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, which received Royal Assent on 8 May, contains provisions which abolish the common-law offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel. Section 153(2)(d) of the Act provides for these provisions to come into force two months after Royal Assent.

Caravan Sites: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the technical presentation on valuing caravan pitches referred to on page 10 of the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Referencing Manual. [202594]

John Healey: A copy of the technical presentation requested, which was created for training purposes, has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the People Panels report produced as part of the council tax revaluation in England exercise to test the banding notifications. [204494]

John Healey: The People Panels report relates to internal discussion and advice to Ministers on the formulation and development of government policy. It is not therefore appropriate to place the report in the Library.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in her Department and its predecessors since 1997. [204776]

Mr. Dhanda: The total number of statutory instruments made by the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister from 29 May 2002 to 30 April 2008 is 587. It would involve a disproportionate cost to provide details in respect of the predecessor Department for the period before the ODPM was created on 29 May 2002 and to provide details of the statutory instruments revoked since 29 May 2002 as no central record is maintained of this information.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the next version of the full business case for the FiReControl project; and if she will make a statement. [205340]

Mr. Dhanda: The next version of the business case (Version 1.1) will be published in June 2008. This will set out the full costs, savings and benefits of the FiReControl project. A key benefit of the project is increased resilience. The business case will set out the details. A copy of the business case will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the outcome of the consultation on regional cost allocation with respect to the FiReControl project was; and if she will make a statement. [205349]

Mr. Dhanda: There has been no formal consultation on regional cost allocations for the FiReControl project. However, formal consultation will take place when the business case is published at the end of June 2008.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the incorporation of fireground technology in the implementation of the FiReControl project; and if she will make a statement. [205351]

Mr. Dhanda: There have been no representations received on the incorporation of fireground technology in the implementation of the FiReControl project.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will include consideration of resilience issues in the next version of the full business case for the FiReControl project; and if she will make a statement. [205702]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (PQ 205340).

Fire Services: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many whole-time firefighters there were in each fire and rescue authority in each of the last five years. [202904]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* The number of whole-time firefighters employed in each fire and rescue authority in England, for the years 2003 to 2007 is shown in the following table.

Whole-time firefighters in England as 31 April

Fire and rescue service	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon	639	678	669	690	682
Bedfordshire and Luton	319	330	323	317	321
Buckinghamshire	330	352	349	359	398
Cambridgeshire	273	285	273	258	277
Cheshire	623	616	602	567	562
Cleveland	586	570	563	561	562
Cornwall	192	205	201	200	193
County Durham and Darlington	407	402	385	372	387
Cumbria	274	271	274	268	274
Derbyshire	467	479	475	455	446
Devon	565	575	562	577	561
Dorset	304	309	302	307	298
East Sussex	423	453	434	424	426
Essex	937	920	936	981	945
Gloucestershire	233	238	239	234	247
Greater Manchester	2,139	2,100	2,028	1,902	1,938
Hampshire	799	808	790	808	802
Hereford and Worcester	351	347	319	330	342
Hertfordshire	564	574	564	569	560
Humberside	721	728	710	712	707
Isle of Wight	61	58	63	57	57
Isles of Scilly	10	11	11	10	11
Kent	938	942	892	901	930
Lancashire	1,008	990	957	912	898
Leicestershire	478	476	477	479	490
Lincolnshire	192	187	195	204	206
London	5,758	5,990	5,815	5,959	6,053
Merseyside	1,342	1,319	1,276	1,151	1,105
Norfolk	288	295	281	303	306
North Yorkshire	351	363	358	351	352
Northamptonshire	307	311	302	288	287
Northumberland	209	198	193	197	195
Nottinghamshire	589	587	549	564	577
Oxfordshire	233	245	237	240	243
Royal Berkshire	436	430	422	427	427
Shropshire	216	216	208	203	215
Somerset	181	179	184	180	179
South Yorkshire	914	918	878	870	834
Staffordshire	471	470	447	432	448
Suffolk	250	244	257	272	257
Surrey	693	669	673	655	639
Tyne and Wear	999	970	945	921	905
Warwickshire	279	284	276	277	262
West Midlands	1,971	1,968	1,944	1,836	1,904
West Sussex	395	409	394	400	373
West Yorkshire	1,678	1,658	1,602	1,550	1,512
Wiltshire	221	229	219	214	211
Total	31,614	31,856	31,053	30,744	30,804

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Housing: Demolition

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were demolished in each Housing Market Renewal pathfinder area in each year since its inception; and how much was allocated from the public purse towards such demolitions in each year. [204509]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on the number of demolitions in each Housing Market Renewal (HMR) pathfinder, and total spend, is set out in the following table. The HMR programme adopts a range of measures, with refurbishments continuing to account for a significantly larger share of activity. Since the start of the programme, a total of just over 12,000 properties have been demolished with over 40,000 properties refurbished and 1,078 new properties constructed.

HMR demolitions

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*	*HMR spent on demolition*	*Total HMR funding 2002-08 (£ million)*
Birmingham Sandwell	311	71	306	60	207	955	2.85	94.70
East Lancashire	227	311	331	309	270	1,448	1.64	167.50
Hull and East Riding	0	0	147	92	115	354	1.87	52.60
Manchester Salford	216	571	434	755	311	2,307	5.25	223.70
Merseyside	199	110	185	256	322	1,072	3.70	190.30
Newcastle Gateshead	387	409	506	258	n/a	1,560	3.79	133.50
North Staffordshire	104	234	62	215	279	894	1.98	100.40
Oldham Rochdale	95	78	164	161	148	646	1.15	121.70
South Yorkshire	398	1,105	627	525	456	3,111	6.68	160.60
Total	1,937	2,889	2,782	2,631	2,108	12,347	28.92	1,245

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Dwellinghouse Coding Guide has been updated since 27 January 2005 in whole or part by the Valuation Office Agency. [204577]

John Healey: The guide was produced to help with training and as a reference for VOA staff. It is updated as appropriate, has been since 27 January 2005, and is available on the VOA website:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications/DwellingHouseCodingGuide/files/contents.htm

Interreg Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what matched funding the Government has provided to programmes under the INTERREG III programme; [204508]

(2) what central funding is being provided to support the INTERREG IV programme. [204512]

John Healey: Under INTERREG III the UK provided match funding to the programmes' technical assistance budgets. €3,727,142 was paid to the North West Europe Programme; €1,149,584 to the IIIC West Programme; €1,594,950 to the North Sea Programme and €870,085 to the Atlantic Area Programme.

The ODPM also provided £5.9 million of match funding to UK partners for pre-application INTERREG IIIB project and partnership activities. From 2003 to 2006, more than 48 UK-organisations benefited from an ODPM award, representing 43 projects across the three INTERREG IIIB Programmes. The majority of organisations receiving OPDM awards were in a project-lead position.

The Government will not be providing match funding for individual projects in the new programmes. But we will be contributing towards programme technical assistance budgets. The amounts for the 2007 to 2013 programme period are:

Project	*Funding (€)*
INTERREG IVA	3,720,000
INTERREG IVB (including INTERACT)	5,045,476
INTERREG IVC	1,011,155
Total	9,776,631

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the INTERACT Handbook on the European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation. [204579]

John Healey: I have deposited a copy of the INTERACT Handbook on the European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1206-7W, on INTERACT programme, which INTERACT working groups representatives from her Department have attended in the last 12 months. [204580]

John Healey: Since May 2007 representatives from CLG have attended two INTERACT programme meetings. Two CLG officials attended a Monitoring Committee meeting on 19 to 20 October in Vienna. One CLG official attended a Monitoring Committee meeting on 4 March 2008, also in Vienna.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to help billing authorities improve the collection rates of *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates; and if she will ask the Audit Commission to initiate an investigation following the recent Office of Fair Trading report. [204505]

John Healey: The collection of council tax and business rates is a matter for local authorities. In 2006-07 billing authorities across England collected 96.9 per cent. of all council tax and 98.7 per cent. of national non-domestic rates. It is not clear which OFT report the hon. Member is referring.

National Interest Mapping Services Agreement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to replace the National Interest Mapping Services Agreement. [202646]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no plans to replace the National Interest Mapping Services Agreement.

Planning

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which national policy statements will be designated within the next two years; and when she expects to publish drafts of each statement for consultation. [204699]

John Healey: The Secretary of State explained in her written statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 11-17WS, that the Government's aim is to establish a suite of national policy statements that will comprise:

an overarching energy NPS covering key elements of energy policy related to infrastructure provision;

statements encompassing different forms of energy generation such as fossil fuels, renewable energy, electricity networks and gas infrastructure;

a statement for aviation;

a statement for ports;

a statement for the strategic highway and rail networks;

a statement on water supply and waste water treatment;

a statement on waste.

In addition, the White Paper on Nuclear Power published in January explained that we also envisage a National Policy Statement on nuclear power.

We are still considering the precise timescale for consulting on and designating individual national policy statements. We will announce more details on this in due course.

Planning Permission: Economic Situation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the unrest in the financial markets and housing market on the number of planning applications made. [204518]

Mr. Iain Wright: No specific assessment on planning applications has been made, however the Department does publish a quarterly National Statistics release on planning applications, decisions, enforcement activity, minerals and waste planning decisions at England, regional and local authority levels. The latest release published on 28 March 2008 can be found on the Departments website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/732.pdf

Planning: Approved Premises

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to amend planning legislation to provide that bail hostels with fewer than five units are deemed to constitute a separate planning use and that their establishment is subject to planning permission. [205343]

Mr. Iain Wright: Bail hostels are likely to fall into "Class C2: Residential Institutions" or be considered "sui generis" under the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes Order) 1987, as amended.

Local planning authorities are best placed to determine, taking into account individual characteristics, as to which class or otherwise a particular premises belongs, and also whether a material change of use is involved.

In general, if a local planning authority considers a bail hostel to fall within Class C2, then planning permission may be required for a change of use to a bail hostel, unless the premises was already in C2 use (e.g. as a hospital or nursing home). If a local planning authority considers a bail hostel to be a sui generis use, then planning permission would usually be required for a change of use to a bail hostel. The key test in whether planning permission is required is whether a material change of use has occurred or would occur.

Amendments to the Use Classes Order were made in 2005 after extensive consultation. The use class status of bail hostels was not changed as a result of that review.

Planning: Wind Power

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will issue planning guidance requiring 2km separation zones around wind turbines. [204945]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our preferred approach is to expect proposals to be evaluated on their likely impacts taking into account the characteristics of particular locations. The considerations to be taken into account are set out in our Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on Planning and Climate Change and in PPS22 on Renewable Energy. The Companion Guide supporting PPS22 provides detailed advice for practitioners on the siting of wind turbines.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of Planning Advice Note 45 on the siting of wind turbines. [204946]

Mr. Iain Wright: Guidance for Scotland on this matter is for the Scottish Executive.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the funding arrangements are for *(a)* regional empowerment consortiums, *(b)* regional improvement and efficiency partnerships, *(c)* e-Government regional partnerships and *(d)* regional equality and diversity partnerships. [204498]

John Healey: With respect to regional empowerment consortiums, the Secretary of State approved funding in March 2008 to the Community Development Foundation, to support the activities of the National Empowerment Partnership, and in particular Regional Empowerment Consortia in each of the nine English regions, for the period 2008-11. Funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is subject to parliamentary approval and satisfactory performance. Grants to individual regional empowerment consortia will be made on receipt of a satisfactory regional action plan.

Regional improvement and efficiency partnerships (RIEPs) are funded using powers in section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Grant is paid to a lead authority within each region. The lead authority acts as the accountable body for the grant on behalf of the other authorities which together comprise the REIP. The receiving authorities are as follows:

Gateshead council (North East)
Wigan metropolitan borough council (North West)
Worcestershire county council (West Midlands)
Nottinghamshire county council (East Midlands)
Kent county council (South East)
Dorset county council (South West)
London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (London)
Norfolk county council (East of England)
Calderdale metropolitan borough council (Yorkshire and Humber).

Communities and Local Government does not provide funding to the e-government regional partnerships or to the regional equality and diversity partnerships.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how often Ofsted requires *(a)* nurseries, *(b)* childminders and *(c)*

nannies to repeat Criminal Record Bureau checks to maintain registration on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register; [200786]

(2) how many *(a)* nurseries, *(b)* childminders and *(c)* nannies removed from the voluntary part of the Childcare Register appealed against their removal to the Care Standards Tribunal in the last three years; [200787]

(3) how many *(a)* nurseries, *(b)* childminders and *(c)* nannies unsuccessful in achieving registration on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register appealed against the decision to the Care Standards Tribunal in each of the last three years; [200788]

(4) how many of those who were removed from the voluntary part of the Childcare Register and appealed against the decision to the Care Standards Tribunal had their appeal *(a)* upheld and *(b)* not upheld in the last three years; [200789]

(5) how many of those who were unsuccessful in achieving registration on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register and appealed against the decision to the Care Standards Tribunal had their appeal *(a)* upheld and *(b)* not upheld in the last three years; [200790]

(6) how Ofsted assesses whether applicant *(a)* nurseries, *(b)* childminders and *(c)* nannies seeking registration on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register have completed training in core skills as set out in Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children's Workforce; [200791]

(7) how many *(a)* nurseries, *(b)* childminders and *(c)* nannies were registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08; [200900]

(8) how many (a) nurseries, (b) childminders and (c) nannies registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register were inspected in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08; [200901]

(9) how many *(a)* nurseries, *(b)* childminders and *(c)* nannies registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register who were inspected in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 were found not to be meeting the requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register; [200902]

(10) how many *(a)* nurseries, *(b)* childminders and *(c)* nannies registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register inspected in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 and found to be not meeting the requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register were removed from the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. [200903]

Beverley Hughes: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 24 April 2008:

Parliamentary question number 200786: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how often Ofsted requires (a) nurseries, (b) childminders and (c) nannies to repeat Criminal Record Bureau checks to maintain registration on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The voluntary part of the Childcare Register has only been in operation since April 2007, Ofsted has yet to decide upon a policy of repeat Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks for any of the types of provision eligible to apply to join the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. However, it might help to mention that as part of the application suitability check process Ofsted carries out an identity check and an enhanced CRB (unless Ofsted has already obtained a CRB check in respect of that person and that person has a continued history with Ofsted in the previous three years) of all applicants.

The law sets out the categories of people Ofsted must check in relation to the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. For childminders and nannies, Ofsted will check the childminder. In relation to other childcare such as nurseries, Ofsted will usually check the applicant where the applicant is an individual and the nominated person where the applicant is an organisation. Ofsted will also check the manager. Ofsted may also check others who make up an organisation that provides childcare if it has concerns about an individual. Providers are expected to ensure that others who work or are in regular contact with children are suitable, or that those who are unchecked are not left in unsupervised contact with children.

We will repeat CRB checks if we judge it necessary, on the basis of information we have received either through inspection or from another source such as a complaint, to determine that a person continues to be suitable. We will recheck those on the register as part of their application to join the Independent Safeguarding Authority scheme which starts in 2009.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 April 2008:

Parliamentary question number 200791: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how Ofsted assesses whether applicant (a) nurseries, (b) childminders and (c) nannies seeking registration on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register have completed training in core skills as set out in Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children's Workforce.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The Common Core of Skills and Knowledge (the Common Core), reflects a set of common values for people who work with children and young people. They promote equality, respect diversity and challenge stereotypes, helping to improve the life chances of all children and young people and to provide more effective integrated services.

The regulations for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register state that, as part of the ongoing requirements of registration, providers must ensure that: "At least one person who is caring for children on the premises has successfully completed training in the core skills as set out in the document 'Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children's Workforce'." This is soon to change in revised regulations to be either "the common core" or a level 2 qualification.

If the childcare provider has received training in all of the common core areas, or will have done so before they start caring for children, they can apply for registration on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. As part of the application process, the applicant is asked to confirm (by signing a set of declarations) that they have received, or will receive before caring for children, relevant training in the core areas. There is no registration visit for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

If we have any concerns about any details of an application, we check with the applicant and seek confirmation of the declaration. To do this the applicant must produce relevant course certificates or demonstrate how they are able to meet the common core through an existing qualification. They may also

need to provide further details of the course, such as the course content. There is no definitive list of qualifications that satisfy the requirements, and in lieu of such a list we currently accept all qualifications on the Early Years and Playwork Qualifications Database as meeting the qualifications requirement, as well as other training or qualifications that the applicant can demonstrate are common core compliant.

At any inspection, registered providers must demonstrate that at least one person has had training in the common core. During inspections, we check compliance with the requirements governing continued registration. At the inspection visit we also look for evidence within the organisation that the skills and knowledge from common core training are put into practice. If we find a provider to be non-compliant then we set an action telling the provider what they must do to remain registered. We currently inspect 10% of those on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, as agreed with the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 April 2008:

To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

how many (a) nurseries, (b) childminders and (c) nannies were registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 [200900]

how many (a) nurseries, (b) childminders and (c) nannies registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register were inspected in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 [200901];

how many (a) nurseries, (b) childminders and (c) nannies registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register who were inspected in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 were found not to be meeting the requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register [200902];

how many (a) nurseries, (b) childminders and (c) nannies registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register who were inspected in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 and found to be not meeting the requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register were removed from the voluntary part of the Childcare Register [200903].

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The voluntary part of the Childcare Register has only been in operation since April 2007. During the period April 2007 to March 2008, Ofsted had registered 1,421 settings. The method of categorisation Ofsted uses does not fit precisely with the types that you have indicated, but I can confirm that of the 1,421 registered settings, 70 are other childcare (for example, activity-based settings such as sports coaching or tuition; short-term care, such as crèches); 33 are childminders; and 1,318 home childcare (nannies). Nurseries usually require compulsory registration as they cater for children aged under five.

Ofsted do not have a duty to inspect provision on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, and only inspect a proportion of those who are registered. Between April 2007 and March 2008 Ofsted has completed six inspections with a further eight scheduled for inspection up until the end of April 2008. Of these, five were home childcare inspections and one was a childcare inspection.

Of those inspections carried out between the periods April 2007 to March 2008, two providers were found not to be meeting the requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

Ofsted has not removed any providers from the voluntary part of the Childcare Register. The two providers did not meet requirements at inspection have since done so.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 April 2008:

To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

how many (a) nurseries, (b) childminders and (c) nannies removed from the voluntary part of the Childcare Register appealed against the decision to the Care Standards Tribunal in the last three years [200787];

how many (a) nurseries, (b) childminders and (c) nannies, unsuccessful in achieving registration on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, appealed against the decision to the Care Standards Tribunal in the last three years [200788];

how many of those who were removed from the voluntary part of the Childcare Register and appealed against the decision to the Care Standards Tribunal had their appeal (a) upheld and (b) not upheld in the last three years [200789];

how many of those who were unsuccessful in achieving registration on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register and appealed against the decision to the Care Standards Tribunal had their appeal (a) upheld and (b) not upheld in the last three years [200790];

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The voluntary part of the Childcare Register has only been in operation since April 2007. From April 2007 and up until the date of this letter, Ofsted has not removed any registered provision from the voluntary part of the Childcare Register and the Care Standards Tribunal has received no appeals. Therefore, no applicant who was unsuccessful in achieving registration has made an appeal.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of childcare staff in *(a)* maintained nurseries and *(b)* children's centres had been in post for less than six months at the latest date for which figures are available. [205030]

Beverley Hughes: The 2006 Childcare And Early Years Providers Survey collected information on the length of time that paid staff members had been employed by the provider. Table 1 shows the percentage of paid staff who had been employed for less than six months for each provider type covered by the survey. Table 2 shows these figures, by the ownership of the provision.

Table 1: Proportion of paid staff who had been employed for less than six months, for each provider type, 2006

	Percentage
Full day care	4
Full day care in Children's Centres	9
Sessional care	4
Out of school clubs	5
Nursery schools	3
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	3
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	2

Table 2: Proportion of paid staff who had been employed for less than six months, by ownership of provision, 2006

Percentage

	Private	Voluntary	Local authority	School/ college	Other
Full day care	4	5	3	3	4
Full day care in Children's Centres	11	9	9	11	6
Sessional care	3	4	6	0	[1]
Out of school clubs	5	6	4	6	9

[1] Data not included due to a low base size.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of childcare staff in *(a)* maintained nurseries and *(b)* children's centres were recruited through a temporary recruitment agency in the latest period for which figures are available. [205031]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey does not collect information on the numbers of staff that were recruited through a temporary recruitment agency, however information on whether a provider had used agency, freelance or supply staff is collected. The 2006 figures are shown in Table 1. Table 2 shows the percentage of providers who had used agency, freelance or supply staff, by the ownership of the provision.

Table 1: Proportion of providers who had used agency, freelance or supply staff in the last 12 months, 2006

Percentage

Full day care	26
Full day care in Children's Centres	55
Sessional care	5
After school clubs	10
Holiday clubs	11
Nursery schools	62
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	57
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	41

Table 2: Proportion of providers who had used agency, freelance or supply staff in the last 12 months, by ownership of provision, 2006

	Private	Voluntary	Local Authority	School/ College	Other
Full day care	24	17	53	46	49
Full day care in Children's Centres	[1]	[1]	64	[1]	[1]
Sessional care	4	5	[1]	[1]	[1]
Out of school clubs	9	9	15	12	[1]

[1] Data not included due to a low base size.

Pupils: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether data associated with the unique learner number will be transferred from or stored on the *(a)* National Identity Register and *(b)* Information Sharing Index/ ContactPoint. [205437]

Bill Rammell: As Minister responsible for the unique learner number, I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans for data associated with the unique learner number to be transferred to or stored on the National Identity Register or ContactPoint.

Secondary Education

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which secondary schools in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Buckinghamshire, *(c)* Kent and *(d)* Lincolnshire fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils obtained fewer than five GCSE A* to C passes including English and mathematics; and what percentage of the relevant intake in each case (i) was in receipt of free school meals and (ii) had special educational needs, giving the contextual value-added score in each case. [203944]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Truancy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of truancy; [204991]

(2) what recent steps the Government have taken to assist children rejoining education after a long period of absence; [204992]

(3) what recent steps the Government have taken to work with parents to reduce truancy. [204993]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 671W, to his previous question on this matter. Data for the 2006-07 school year show reductions in overall absence from all state-funded schools (6.49 per cent. compared to 6.96 per cent.), which is the lowest on record, and in persistent absence from state-funded secondary schools (6.7 per cent. compared to 7.1 per cent.). We are continuing our focus on reducing persistent absence across all local authorities and their schools, and on minimising avoidable absence through early identification of pupils developing patterns of absence and tackling the underlying causes of these patterns. We expect schools and local authorities to work with the pupils and their families on an individual basis to resolve the problems that cause the absence, with the support of other agencies and partners such as the local community, social care workers and the police, reintegrate into the school community and catch up with their peers.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate was made of the contribution of the alcohol industry to *(a)* alcohol awareness programmes and *(b)* alcohol rehabilitation services for the purposes of determining his Department's spending share in each year since 1997. [203801]

Dawn Primarolo: The alcohol industry plans to contribute £12 million over the three years 2007 to 2010 to the Drinkaware Trust to fund activities to reduce

alcohol-related harm, including alcohol awareness programmes. We are aware that individual companies fund other awareness programmes, although funding plans are not routinely shared with the Department. The Department holds no information on industry funding of alcohol rehabilitation services.

The Department does not adjust its spending plans to take account of industry funding of awareness programmes.

Arthritis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 10 to 16, (ii) 17 to 24, (iii) 25 to 30, (iv) 31 to 35, (v) 36 to 40 and (vi) over 40 years died from rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority. [205058]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females aged (i) 10 to 16, (ii) 17 to 24, (iii) 25 to 30, (iv) 31 to 35, (v) 36 to 40 and (vi) over 40 years died from rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority. (205058)

There are too few deaths from rheumatoid arthritis in persons aged under 40 to show in a table with all the breakdowns requested. Also, the definition of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis applies strictly to children aged under 16. Therefore, the tables attached provide the number of deaths in England and Wales by sex from the juvenile form of arthritis in children aged under 16, and from rheumatoid arthritis in persons aged 16 and over by age group (Table 1), and the total number of deaths from rheumatoid arthritis by local authority (Table 2), from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available). A copy of the tables has been placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

Asthma

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made by his Department and its agencies of the causes of asthma. [202889]

Ann Keen: The Department and its agencies have not made a recent assessment of the causes of asthma, however I understand the Medical Research Council (MRC), which works closely with the national health service and the United Kingdom health departments to improve health through world-class medical research, is of the view that asthma may be partly due to allergy and partly due to genetics. MRC research programmes are continuing into both the causes of, and treatments for asthma.

Community Nurses: Manpower

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on community nurses: manpower, how many community matrons are employed in the NHS; and if he will place in the Library information on the local intelligence which suggests that the number of community matrons may be higher than the official figure. [202565]

Ann Keen: Community matrons were identified separately for the first time in the 2006 national health service workforce census. The 2007 work force census shows that 619 community matrons are employed in the NHS, which is an increase of 253 (69 per cent.) since 2006.

Community matrons

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
2006	366	351
2007	619	571
Increase 2006-07		
Number	253	220
Percentage	69.13	62.67

Source:
NHS workforce census

Based on recent discussions with a number of strategic health authorities (SHAs) we believe that the census is an undercount, with community matrons most likely being recorded in the census within other occupational groups. Community matrons are a relatively new category and there may be some problems with how they are recorded in the census. Although not as robustly validated as the census, local information from local development plans is shown in the following table:

SHA numbers for community matrons and case managers sourced from local development plans—2007

	Number
Case managers	1,725
Community matrons	1,890
Total	3,615

Note:
Case managers are required to demonstrate the same competencies as community matrons. In some cases a case manager may be best placed to provide the service to the patient.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196944]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the last three years the Department has not held any events on the departmental estate where wine and Fairtrade wine were served.

The Department has not assessed the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what audits his Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176479]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on audits is held for the Department and its agencies, NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), as follows:

Department

Data Protection Act—2001;

BS7799 (now ISO 27001)—every six months from the end of 2002 to November 2007;

System Security In Departmental Information Technology (IT) Applications—2004;

Freedom of Information—2006

Information Security—2007

NHS PASA

The Agency was created in 2000 and since inception has been audited annually on all matters of governance including information security and data protection.

Since 2001 it has been audited twice yearly by British Standards Institute to ensure compliance with IS027001.

The most recent audit was in January 2008.

In addition the security of personal data is particularly emphasised in all audits.

MHRA

2002-03 (pre-MHRA)—Data Protection Act and Systems Security;

2003-04—Assets and Inventories (including IT equipment);

2004-05—Information Management;

2005-06—Freedom of Information and IT Security;

2007-08—Assets and Inventories (including IT equipment) and IT Core Controls.

NHS Connecting for Health

The personal data of staff employed by NHS Connection for Health are managed under direction of the Secretary of State for Health by the NHS Business Services Authority. Data Protection is managed by them in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Mobile devices are audited on an annual basis—based on financial year. Audits begin in January and conclude in March.

The ongoing audit of servers and network equipment, including both hardware and software is undertaken every three months as a consolidation exercise is in progress. Once the consolidation is complete, the audit will take place every six months and take approximately two weeks to complete.

Clear desk audits are carried out quarterly in every building to ensure compliance to physical security of IT equipment.

PC hardware is audited on an annual basis—based on financial year. Audits begin in January and conclude in March.

First Information Security Audit—completed October 2007.

Departmental Transport

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff *(a)* cars and *(b)* bicycles are (i) funded or (ii) subsidised by his Department. [197854]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not fund or subsidise the purchase of cars for members of staff. Interest-free loans are available to staff for the purchase of season tickets or bicycles to encourage green commuting. These loans are provided within HM Treasury guidance for tax-free benefits. The same tax rules apply to benefits in kind provided to employees of Government Departments as to any other employee.

In the 2007-08 financial year, the Department approved four interest-free loans for staff purchase of bicycles.

The Department is currently putting in place a 'cycle to work' scheme for its employees. The scheme will support employees in taking greener journeys, by enabling the Department to loan a cycle to an employee for 12-18 months. The same tax rules apply to benefits in kind provided to employees of Government departments as to any other employee.

Drugs: EU Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local authorities are aware of their obligations on the disposal of unwanted medicines under EU Directive 2004/27/EC. [203953]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* Local authorities (LAs) are obliged to collect clinical waste, including unwanted medicines, from householders on request, although they may make a charge. The Department's guidance Safe Management of Healthcare Waste, aimed at all those involved in the management of healthcare waste including LAs, was published in November 2006 and includes advice on the management of waste pharmaceuticals.

Hospitals: Clostridium

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of clostridium difficile was in hospitals before the deep clean; and what it has been since the completion of the deep clean. [203161]

Ann Keen: The national deep clean programme was announced in September 2007 and the deadline for completion was 31 March 2008. The benefits of deep cleaning will only be measurable after completion. The most recent published data on *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) infection covers the period October to December 2007, which was while the national deep clean programme was under way.

We introduced the deep clean programme to improve patient care and experience. As set out in the written ministerial statement given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS, strategic health authorities will take the lead on evaluation locally as the impact of each trust's programme will be different. No single measurement method will pick up all the benefits, particularly as trusts may be implementing a range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle healthcare associated infections.

Improvements to patient experience and environment may be measurable through:

Patient Environment Action Team scores;

scores on National Specifications for Cleanliness;

compliance with the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections;

compliance with the Department's national core standards;

Healthcare Commission inpatient survey scores; and
infection rates.

The mandatory surveillance system operated for the Department of Health by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) provides data at trust level on the number of reports of *C. difficile* infection. Mandatory surveillance of *C. difficile* was introduced in 2004 for patients aged 65 and over and has been extended to all patients aged two and over from April 2007.

The HPA publishes these data on their website so information on the number of *C. difficile* infections for national health service acute trusts is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

Tables of the HPA data have also been placed in the Library. The latest data was published on 24 April 2008.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the hygiene of new patients before they are allocated a bed in a hospital in order to reduce rates of clostridium difficile. [203162]

Ann Keen: The Department does not issue any guidance on cleaning patients before they enter into hospital in order to reduce rates of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*). As explained in our "Clean, safe care" strategy, colonisation with *C. difficile* without symptoms is not considered to increase risk of transmission. Copies of the strategy are available in the Library.

C. difficile is a bacterium that lives in the gut of about 3 per cent. of healthy adults in England (ie about 3 per cent. of healthy adults are colonised). It is kept at bay by normal gut bacteria; but if those bacteria are killed by antibiotics, *C. difficile* can take over. Patients with *C. difficile* excrete large numbers of spores in their faeces which contaminate the environment. *C. difficile* is spread by a person swallowing the bacteria or the spores it produces. Spores transferred to other people can subsequently develop into bacteria that grow in the colon. People are normally only susceptible to *C. difficile* infections if they are on broad spectrum antibiotics, which kill normal gut bacteria. This is why good antibiotic prescribing practice is particularly important and effective for reducing *C. difficile* infection.

Hospitals: Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the quality of hospital food; and if he will assess the potential of local sourcing in improving its quality. [202430]

Ann Keen: Good quality food is important for all patients, and standards have risen. The Healthcare Commission reported that over 96 per cent. of trusts were meeting the core standards on hospital food.

The National Patient Safety Agency Patient Environment Action Team Assessments show that 99.5 per cent. of hospitals were rated as acceptable or above, with over 46 per cent. of hospitals rated as 'Excellent'.

In the Healthcare Commission's 2006 in-patient survey, 54 per cent. of patients rated the food as 'very good' or 'good', and 79 per cent. said they were given a choice of food while in hospital.

Human Embryo Experiments

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding the Government provided for *(a)* human embryonic stem cell research and *(b)* adult stem cell research in each year since funding was first provided. [200451]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department of Health does not routinely hold information on the type of stem cell used in research. The Medical Research Council (MRC) has provided my Department with the following information on the funding of stem cell research and the types of stem cells used. The information is based on a detailed analysis, conducted in 2006, of MRC spend on stem cell research, although it did not differentiate between animal and human stem cells.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	£ million	*£ million*	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*
Stem Cell Research total	4.5	14.5	14.1	—	17.4	—
Summary						
Adult	—	—	7.2	51.5	7.5	43.6
Embryonic	—	—	6.8	48.5	9.8	56.4

Influenza: Vaccinations

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many influenza vaccinations were given in Easington constituency in each year since 2004. [203784]

Dawn Primarolo: Influenza vaccination uptake figures are collected by primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, rather than by constituency, and are published annually in 'NHS immunisation Statistics England'. This is available in the Library and also at

www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/Flu/Vaccine.

Maternity Services: Official Visits

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which maternity units Ministers in his Department have visited in the last 12 months; on what date each visit was made; and which Minister made each visit. [195754]

Ann Keen: My right hon. Friend, the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson), visited the maternity unit at the Royal Victoria hospital, Newcastle to launch the Maternity Campaign on 25 February 2008.

I visited the neonatal unit at St. Peters' hospital in Chertsey, Surrey on 31 July 2007. I also visited the antenatal clinic at the Luton and Dunstable hospital on 15 November 2007.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis), visited the maternity unit at the Whittington hospital, Highgate, London on 5 February 2007.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Lord Darzi, made a brief visit to the maternity unit at Tiverton hospital on 9 October 2007 while visiting other services at the hospital.

My hon. Friend, the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw), visited the antenatal and postnatal clinic at the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital on 6 July 2007.

Meat Hygiene Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the advantages and disadvantages of privatising the Meat Hygiene Service; and what discussions he has had with the Food Standards Agency on its proposals to be discussed at the board meeting on 7 May. [201389]

Dawn Primarolo: The MHS is an Executive Agency of the Food Standards Agency. The FSA Board considered the arguments for and against the delegation of official controls in approved meat establishments to an independent third party or Control Body at its open meeting on 7 May. The Board agreed that a proposed pilot of a Control Body should not be further pursued and the option of outsourcing the work of the MHS should be revisited only if there are significant changes in the official controls environment.

Medical Equipment: Hygiene

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to the NHS on the use of private sector decontamination services for surgical equipment; [203407]

(2) how much his Department spent on improving decontamination services for surgical equipment in the NHS in each financial year since 2000-01. [203408]

Ann Keen: The Department can confirm that it has not issued formal guidance on the use of independent sector decontamination services. However, a statement has been made on overall policy in the area of surgical equipment decontamination. This is contained in the "2007 Clarification and Policy Summary—Decontamination of Re-Usable Medical Devices in the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Care Sectors (NHS and Independent providers)". This document sets out guidelines to ensure universally high standards of decontamination practice and outcome, whether the provider of the decontamination service is an independent sector supplier or within the national health service. Copies of the document have been placed in the Library and are also available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_074722

Capital allocations made by the Department to the NHS for improving decontamination services, during the period referred to, are shown in the following table.

Capital allocations 2000-01 to 2007-08

	£ million
2000-01	0.00
2001-02	25.26
2002-03	59.76
2003-04	29.00
2004-05	70.00
2005-06	29.85
2006-07	21.59
2007-08	8.72
Total	244.18

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with what standards his Department requires providers of decontamination services within the NHS to comply. [203409]

Ann Keen: Where decontamination services are provided only for internal use by the same NHS Trust or another national health service body, then policy requires compliance with the 'essential requirements' of the Medical Devices Directive (93/42 EC) and associated Regulations. These are referred to in 2007 "Clarification and Policy Summary—Decontamination of Re-Usable Medical Devices in the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Care Sectors (NHS and Independent providers)". Copies are available in the Library.

Where NHS units provide services to other NHS bodies or to independent sector providers then they are subject to the full requirements of the Medical Devices Regulations 2002 (SI 618) and 2003 Amendments (SI 1697). In these instances the unit will be subject to a third party audit programme by a recognised Notified Body. The Competent Authority, The Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency will carry out one or more conformity assessments as described in annexes to the Regulations.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* efficiency of decontamination services within the NHS. [203411]

Ann Keen: National surveys of the quality systems related to effectiveness and efficiency of both national health service and independent sector suppliers of decontamination have been undertaken since 1999. The most recent published report is 'The Decontamination of Surgical Instruments in the NHS in England - Update report - A step change', published in June 2005. This demonstrates improvements in virtually all areas of quality systems and control over the 1999 to 2004 period. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

The Chief Medical Officer has requested a further survey during the present year. This is referred to as the National Decontamination Survey 2008 and is currently in progress. The survey will visit some 35 NHS trusts including several which use commercial suppliers of decontamination services. The trusts have

voluntarily agreed to take part and the focus is on those institutions that pursue high-risk tissue surgery in respect of the theoretical risk of human prion disease transmission. It is expected that the full survey will be complete by August 2008.

MRSA

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the percentage changes in incidence of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile as a result of the deep cleaning programme; and over what timescale his Department expects such changes to be reflected in hospital infection statistics; [203400]

(2) by what means his Department will assess the effectiveness of its deep cleaning programme for hospitals in England in reducing cases of healthcare associated infections. [203403]

Ann Keen: As set out by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in his written ministerial statement on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS, following completion of the deep clean of the national health service on 31 March 2008, the Department will work with strategic health authorities (SHAs) to draw up examples of where a deep clean has had a demonstrable effect in improving patient care and experience and will share these across the NHS.

SHAs will take the lead on evaluation locally as the impact of each trust's programme will be different and no single measurement method will pick up all the benefits, particularly as trusts may be implementing a range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle healthcare associated infections.

Improvements to patient experience and environment may be measurable through:

Patient Environment Action Team scores;

scores on national specifications for cleanliness;

compliance with the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections;

compliance with the Department is national core standards;

Healthcare Commission inpatient survey scores; and

infection rates.

Deep cleaning is just part of a comprehensive range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle infections set out in the Strategy "Clean, Safe Care: Reducing Infections and Saving Lives". Copies of the Strategy are available in the Library.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* violent incidents against NHS staff, *(b)* physical assaults against NHS staff and *(c)* criminal sanctions against individuals who had assaulted NHS staff there were in each of the last five financial years in (i) each NHS hospital trust, (ii) each strategic health authority area and (iii) England. [203450]

Ann Keen: Since 2004-05 the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) has collected information on the number of physical assaults reported against National Health Service staff in England and on the numbers of criminal sanctions following assaults.

Information is not available by the category of violent incidents or on reported physical assaults by strategic health authority area. The numbers of reported physical assaults in England are shown in the following table

	Number
2004-05	60,385
2005-06	58,695
2006-07	55,709

Tables showing the number physical assaults reported by each health body have been placed in the Library.

Information on criminal sanctions following assaults is not available for each NHS hospital trust or strategic health authority area. The numbers of criminal sanctions following assaults against NHS staff in England are shown in the following table.

	Number
2004-05	759
2005-06	850
2006-07	869

Criminal sanctions include:

cautions and conditional cautions;

community rehabilitation or punishment orders;

imprisonment (including suspended sentences);

conditional discharges; and

fines.

NHS: Working Hours

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he discussed the implementation of the Working Time Directive in the health sector at his recent meeting with the French Minister of Health; and if he will make a statement. [202825]

Dawn Primarolo: At the meeting between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Roselyne Bachelot, French Minister for Health and Social Affairs on 14 April, the issue of European working time directive was not discussed. However, at the Informal Meeting of European Union Health Ministers in Slovenia on 17 and 18 April, concerns were raised about the challenges facing health services from the European working time directive.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which team in his Department leads on the implementation of the Working Time Directive in the NHS in England. [203446]

Ann Keen: Local national health service trusts are responsible for implementing the European Working Time Directive (EWTD) as part of their health and safety obligations. The Department has commissioned NHS National Workforce Projects to support local NHS implementation of the EWTD for doctors in training through a range of innovative pilot projects and supporting tools.

Nurses: Students

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to returning to *(a)* nursing and *(b)* midwifery courses in each of the last five years. [202847]

Ann Keen: In 2004-05 £4.3 million was set aside and £2 million in 2005-06 to fund return to practice initiatives for all healthcare professionals, some of which would have been used for nursing and midwifery courses. From 2006-07 onwards, money for such schemes has been baselined into the multi professional education and training budget and cannot be disaggregated. The earliest year for which information is available is 2004-05.

Psychiatry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from the Health Professions Council Professional Liaison Group on the status of the humanistic tradition in the field of psychotherapy. [202937]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State has received no representations from the Health Professions Council Professional Liaison Group on the status of the humanistic tradition in the field of psychotherapy, as the group is yet to be established.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171260]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's total spend on first class train tickets in the last 12 months has been as follows:

	Amount (£)
June 2006	431,475.40
May 2006	442,054.15
April 2006	383,889.08
July 2006 to March 2007	545,688.00
Total	1,803,106.63

These figures consist of rail travel booked via the Department's contracted agent. There are some exceptional cases where travel is booked outside of the contract but these cannot be identified separately without incurring disproportionate costs.

All travel within the Department is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people between the ages of 16 and 25 were treated for a sexually transmitted disease in the last year for which figures are available. [201623]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of selected sexually transmitted infections diagnosed in 16 to 24-year-olds in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England, by age group in 2006 are shown in the following table:

	Age group	
Sexually Transmitted Infection	*16-19*	*20-24*
Uncomplicated chlamydial infection	25,658	38,792
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea infection	3,348	4,934
Primary and Secondary infectious syphilis	100	329
Anogenital herpes simplex—first attack	3,017	5,369
Anogenital warts—first attack	13,973	24,632

Notes:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. Individual patients may have more than one diagnosis in a year.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are not yet available for 2007.
5. Aggregated data are collected in a predefined format and age group can be presented in the above categories.

Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to diagnoses made in GUM clinics, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) provides screening to asymptomatic people aged under 25 years in England. The following table shows the number of positive chlamydia screens among those aged 16-24 years who were screened for chlamydia as part of the NCSP during the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

	Age group (years)	
	16-19	*20-24*
Numbers positive	8,467	6,599

Note:
The data from the NCSP Core Dataset are for positive chlamydia screens made outside of GUM clinics only and include positive screens made by the Boots pathfinder project.

Source:
The NCSP Core Dataset.

Tuberculosis: Drug Resistance

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and *(b)* extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis were diagnosed in each health authority in each of the last 10 years; what the treatment outcome in each case was; and what proportion of those cases were attributed to previously unsuccessful tuberculosis treatment. [203469]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the number of cases of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (TB) in patients reported to the national surveillance system (enhanced tuberculosis surveillance (ETS)) from 1998 to 2006 in England. Numbers smaller than five are not provided because of the risk of deductive disclosure.

Number of cases of multi-drug resistant[1] TB by region, England, 1998 to 2006[2]

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
East Midlands	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
East of England	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5
London	14	11	10	12	16	33	21	16	30
North East	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
North West	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	6	<5
South East	<5	<5	<5	<5	7	<5	<5	<5	5
South West	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
West Midlands	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Yorkshire and the Humber	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	9	6	5

[1] Resistant to isoniazid and rifampicin, with or without resistance to other drugs.
[2] Region is equivalent to strategic health authority (SHA) in all places except the South East, which includes South Central and South East Coast SHAs.

Data provided by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) are provided by HPA region, comprising nine regional offices covering the whole of England which correspond to the Government offices of the regions (this equates to SHA in all regions apart from the South East, which includes South Central and South East Coast SHAs).

Information on the proportion of multi-drug resistant TB cases in England from 1998 to 2006 reported to have had previous tuberculosis treatment is provided in the following table. Due to the small numbers and the potential for deductive disclosure, this information has been provided for England as a whole in each year. Among those cases reported to have previously been treated, it is not possible to definitively attribute drug resistance to previously unsuccessful TB treatment as some of these cases may have subsequently acquired a new infection.

Proportion of cases of multi-drug resistant[1] TB with a previous history of tuberculosis, England, 1998 to 2006[2]

	Previous history of TB		Total number of multi-drug resistant cases
	Number	Percentage	
1998	11	48	23
1999	5	36	14
2000	8	36	22
2001	—	22	23
2002	8	31	26
2003	6	18	34
2004	6	22	27
2005	8	27	30
2006	12	30	40

[1] Resistant to isoniazid and rifampicin, with or without resistance to other drugs.
[2] Of cases with known previous history of tuberculosis.

Following the publication by the World Health Organisation of the definition for extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB in 2006, the HPA reviewed all cases reported from 2003 to 2006. A single case of XDR TB was identified in a patient reported in England in 2003. A further XDR case has been reported from Scotland in 2008.

A subsequent retrospective review was carried out by the HPA of drug susceptibility testing results, where these were available, on all tuberculosis isolates reported in the United Kingdom from 1993 to 2002. A further six isolates were identified as conforming to the definition of XDR TB from this period.

Treatment outcomes are currently reported 12 months after the start of treatment. Multi-drug resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB cases require treatment for considerably longer than 12 months and outcome of treatment is not, therefore, routinely available in these cases.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what UK bilateral aid programmes are under way in *(a)* Gambia, *(b)* Cameroon, *(c)* Guinea and *(d)* the Democratic Republic of Congo; and what the likely (i) cost and (ii) duration is of each. [204971]

Gillian Merron: The following tables show all the UK bilateral aid programmes with a value of £500,000 or more currently under way in the Gambia, Cameroon, Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(a) Gambia

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	Commitment From	Commitment To
Education	Basic Education Support for Poverty Reduction	3.5	2005	2010
Governance	Legal Capacity Building Programme	2.65	2004	2010
	Financial Governance Programme	1.7	2004	2009
	Support to the Pro-Poor Advocacy Group	0.57	2005	2009
Civil Society	Concern Universal: Empowering Civil Society Organisations	0.55	2006	2009

(b) Cameroon

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	Commitment From	Commitment To
Environment	Targeted Sector Budget Support to the Forest and Environment Sector Programme (FESP)	4	2006	2009
	Basket Fund Technical Capacity Building to the FESP	4	2005	2008
	Forest Governance Facility	2.38	2006	2009
	World Bank/DFID collaboration to support the forestry sector	0.64	2004	2009

(c) Guinea

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	Commitment From	Commitment To
Governance	Preparation for Democratic Government	0.5	2007	2009

(d) Democratic Republic of Congo

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	From	To
Emergency	Humanitarian Pooled Fund	90	2006	2008
Governance	Strengthening Democracy and Accountability in the DRC	63.88	2008	2012
	Support to the Electoral process	21.17	2004	2008
	Media for Strengthening Democracy and Accountability	8.11	2007	2012
	Peace Building and Citizenship in the DRC	2.37	2006	2009
	Restoration of Justice in the East of Congo	2	2007	2009
	Support to European Union Security Sector Reform Mission -Chain of Payments project	0.7	2008	2008
	Security Sector Accountability and Police programme	0.5	2008	2013
	EU Security Mission Consultancy	0.5	2005	2008
Civil Society	Communities Sowing the Future of Congo	24.84	2007	2010
Health	Provision of free health care	30.7	2007	2011
	Subsidised Insecticide Treated Net Programme	17.08	2001	2008
	DRC Quick Start Health	9.76	2003	2008
	Christian Aid HIV project	4.625	2006	2011
	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) Rapid Reaction Fund	1.8	2006	2008
	DRC-Christian Relief Network Fistula Programme	0.95	2005	2008
	Medecins Sans Frontieres—Belgium Emergency Pool	0.7	2007	2008
Infrastructure	Support to Transport Infrastructure (Republic of Congo Pro-Routes)	38	2008	2013
	Rehabilitation and Maintenance of K2 Road	4.62	2004	2009
	Support to Transport Infrastructure (Pro-Routes)—Preparation Stage	1.18	2006	2012
	UK/China work on Roads impact mitigation in DRC	0.5	2008	2009
Water and Sanitation	Water Supply to Mbuji Mayi	2.5	2007	2009
Public Administration	Minerals Support Programme	1.15	2007	2010
	Strengthening DRC Forest Sector	0.74	2006	2009
Humanitarian	International Committee of Red Cross	9	2006	2008

(d) Democratic Republic of Congo

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	From	To
	Volcano risk management Unit	0.9	2007	2008
Education	Access to Primary Education	2.5	2006	2008

Burma: Storms

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Chinese government on securing access for international humanitarian aid to Burma. [204759]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have spoken to the Chinese Ambassador and the Foreign Secretary has written to his Chinese counterpart. Our Ambassador in Beijing has also lobbied the Chinese Government. As the most important friends of the Burmese regime we want them to exert pressure to ensure that aid flows in the quantities required and the experts are allowed unfettered access.

The Prime Minister intends to speak to the Chinese Prime Minister as soon as possible to underline the need for urgent and strong messages to be conveyed to the Burmese Government pressing them to accept international assistance.

Disaster Relief: Livestock

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is towards support for working animals and livestock in areas of the world hit by natural disasters; and if he will make a statement. [205263]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises that many populations in the world rely heavily on working animals and livestock for their household income. Natural disasters can have a devastating impact on livestock numbers and health, cause severe damage to animal shelters and deplete fodder resources. This can result in increased vulnerability and suffering of livestock dependent, populations. DFID's humanitarian policy underlines the need to reduce risk, protect against extreme vulnerability and strengthen social protection for populations.

People who depend on livestock or the sale of livestock products for most of their income and consumption continue to fall victim to disasters, for a complex variety of reasons that include pre-existing vulnerability and also climate change. DFID has recently carried out a review of its work with such 'pastoralists' and developed a specific pastoralist policy paper.

DFID has provided funding to humanitarian actors for livestock projects in natural disasters, and will continue to do so where and when necessary and appropriate. DFID is also funding Tufts University's Feinstein Centre to produce Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) for the design, implementation and assessment of livestock interventions to assist people affected by humanitarian crises.

Indian Ocean Tsunami

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of the relief aid pledged by the Government at the time of the Asian tsunami has to date been disbursed in *(a)* Indonesia, *(b)* Thailand and *(c)* Sri Lanka; and how much of that pledged funding remains unallocated. [205262]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) disbursed £64.1 million in humanitarian aid following the tsunami. This amount includes aid-in-kind and contributions to regional projects. In its report of February 2007, The National Audit Office (NAO) declared that it was content that this money was properly and fully spent.

(a) Indonesia

£55 million was committed by DFID for emergency and relief activity. All of this was successfully spent in the months following the disaster. An additional £59.2 million was approved for post tsunami reconstruction. All these funds have now been allocated to projects, and £42,283,677 (71 per cent.) has been disbursed. The remainder is being disbursed when the funds are required for actual project expenditure, and all remaining funds should be disbursed by 31 March 2009.

(b) Thailand

The Department for International Development did not allocate funds for tsunami relief or reconstruction in Thailand.

(c) Sri Lanka

£4.4 million was committed for emergency and relief activities. All funds were disbursed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. In addition, £2 million committed for longer-term tsunami reconstruction has been disbursed in full.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* discussions he has had on the percentage of the funding given by public subscription following the Asian tsunami that has to date been spent by members of the Disasters Emergency Committee on Assistance to (i) Indonesia, (ii) Thailand and (iii) Sri Lanka; and what percentage of that money has to date been spent on (A) administration, including executive travel, (B) human aid to Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka and (C) working animal and livestock welfare in those countries. [205264]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has neither *(a)* received representations nor *(b)* held discussions on the percentage of funding spent in (i) Indonesia, (ii) Thailand and (iii) Sri Lanka by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) resulting from its tsunami appeal. The DEC and its associated non-governmental organisations provide information on the uses to which the funds raised by its appeals are put (see www.dec.org.uk). This information is not collected by DFID.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 May 2008

[The following answers were received for publication on 14 May 2008.]

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to update the Know Your Limits leaflets. [204274]

Dawn Primarolo: The leaflets "Drinking and You" and "Drinking, You and Your Mates" were updated and reprinted in April 2008.

On 19 May, the Department will launch a public information campaign on alcohol units and health, which will include several new leaflets replacing current Know Your Limits leaflets.

Asthma: Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to improve NHS healthcare services for asthma sufferers. [204994]

Ann Keen: In 2004, the Department introduced a National Service Framework (NSF) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services to set standards. Copies of the NSF are available in the Library. Asthma has a specific care pathway within the NSF, which serves as a benchmark in guiding national health service commissioners in procuring efficient, effective and child/family orientated services, and also serves as a reference for appraisal by families, service commissioners and the Healthcare Commission.

The NHS Choices website, launched June 2007, contains a wide and expanding range of information about asthma to help sufferers manage their condition. This includes information on causation, preventive measures, treatments, and comparative data on primary and secondary care providers. Later this year, an asthma pathway will bring together in one place a range of information about the five stages of the condition.

Published Quality and Outcome Framework scores indicate how each general practitioner practice in England performs in the delivery of recognised best practice in asthma care against the national standard, and that of the local primary care trust.

World-class commissioning is an ambitious initiative that is being rolled out across the entire national health service, with the purpose of strengthening the commissioning of health and wellbeing services across the board. The World-Class Commissioning Programme will improve health outcomes for people with asthma just as it will improve outcomes for people with any health need or condition, through transforming the way that health and care services are commissioned.

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has appraised the following asthma treatments: inhaler systems (devices) in children under the age of five years with chronic asthma; corticosteroids for the treatment of in adults and children aged 12 years and over; corticosteroids for the treatment of chronic asthma chronic asthma in older children (5-15 years) and omalizumab for severe persistent allergic asthma.

Where NICE has given a positive recommendation that the NHS should provide this treatment, primary care trusts are statutorily obliged to provide funding.

Bereavement Counselling: Children

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on initiatives aimed at assisting bereaved children. [204265]

Ann Keen: The Department has not received any such representations. Over the last three financial years, we have financially supported the Child Bereavement Charity with £109,000 towards the cost of their Communicating with Children - Every Bereaved Child Matters project.

Cystic Fibrosis: Screening

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review his Department's policy on testing for cystic fibrosis carrier status when screening newborn babies for cystic fibrosis. [204082]

Ann Keen: On the recommendation of the United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UK NSC), a newborn cystic fibrosis screening programme was introduced in England in 2001 to identify babies with cystic fibrosis. The screening programme is not designed to test for cystic fibrosis carrier status. A small proportion of babies (about one in 100) are unavoidably identified during the testing as cystic fibrosis carriers. This can happen if a mutation analysis of a blood sample is required after the biochemical test. In such cases, in line with other newborn screening programmes, parents will be advised that their child is a carrier. The UK NSC keeps all its policy advice under review.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department since 1997. [204766]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for South-East Cambridgeshire (Mr. Paice) on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 14-15W.

Doctors: Manpower

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of doctors of each specialty and grade there will be in the NHS in each of the next 10 years. [204226]

Ann Keen: The numbers of doctors that the national health service requires each year is a matter for determination by local NHS organisations, as they are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community.

Doubt Kills Campaign

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has given in grants to the Doubt Kills campaign by the British Heart Foundation. [204941]

Ann Keen: The Department has given no direct funding for the Doubt Kills campaign to the British Heart Foundation (BHF), although the Department does regularly support the BHF through Section 64 grant funding for other purposes.

EU Action

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which consultations undertaken at EU level affecting his Department there were in each of the last 10 years; to which of these his Department *(a)* responded within the deadline, *(b)* responded after the deadline and *(c)* made no response; and in which consultations the Department secured all the aims of its consultation response in the ensuing action taken by the European Commission. [205556]

Dawn Primarolo: In response to any consultation at European Union (EU) level, the Department always aims to meet the stated deadline. If this is not possible, we negotiate an extension when required. We are committed to keeping scrutiny committees fully engaged in accordance with Government guidance and always aim to influence the consultation process as constructively as possible and robustly where necessary. However, comprehensive information on all EU-level consultations affecting the Department in the last 10 years is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Food: Safety

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities were participating in the Food Standard Agency's Scores on Doors scheme at the latest date for which information is available. [204533]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has sponsored pilot schemes of a variety of designs and involving a total of 47 local authorities[1]. A number of other local authorities have implemented schemes independently of the FSA in response to local needs.

There has been widespread support for a nationwide scheme to ensure clarity for consumers and consistency for businesses. In view of this, the FSA will shortly be launching a public consultation on proposals for introducing a United Kingdom-wide scheme.

[1] Aberdeen, Ashford, Banbridge, Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Belfast, Brent, Brighton and Hove, Bromley, Camden, Canterbury, Coventry, Croydon, Derby, Ealing, Edinburgh, Enfield, Fife, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Hull, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston, Lambeth, Leicester, Lewisham, Maidstone, Merton, Newham, North Devon, Nottingham, Perth and Kinross, Redbridge, Renfrewshire, Richmond, Sevenoaks, Stoke on Trent, Swansea, Tonbridge and Malling, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Westminster.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's definition of a health centre is. [205200]

Mr. Bradshaw: "Health centre" is a term used to describe a range of health services characterised by the co-location and integration of different services, including those traditionally provided in a hospital setting. The scope and scale of these services will be determined by local commissioners in collaboration with clinicians and patients to reflect local needs and circumstances.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which team within his Department leads on plans for a new GP-led health centre in each primary care trust area. [205218]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Commissioning and System Management Directorate supported by the Commercial Directorate are jointly assisting the national health service to deliver the new general practitioner (GP) led health centres and new GP practices in poorly served areas.

Health Services: Rural Areas

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that people with mobility problems or other disabilities secondary to chronic health conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis will be able to access polyclinics and other primary care services in rural areas. [204746]

Mr. Bradshaw: The premises from where such services are to be delivered must comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. It is for primary care trusts to develop, in consultation with local people, general practitioners and others, the services within the health centre that best reflect local needs.

Health: Children

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* levels of obesity and *(b)* general health of school children in England in the last three years. [204375]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the exact format requested.

Data on the prevalence of obesity and self-reported general health among children aged two to 10, 11 to 15, and two to 15 between 1995 and 2006 can be found in the "Health Survey for England 2006 latest trends", published 31 January 2008. The data are presented in table 4 (obesity) and table 8 (general health) of the "Children trend tables 2006". This publication is available in the Library.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Ministers from his Department have *(a)* authorised parliamentary counsel to assist in preparing amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill on behalf of private Members and *(b)* authorised officials to instruct parliamentary counsel to prepare amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill which were subsequently passed to private Members in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [205072]

Dawn Primarolo: Ministers from the Department have on no occasions either authorised parliamentary counsel to assist in preparing amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill on behalf of private Members, or authorised officials to do so.

Meat Hygiene Service

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1801W, on the Meat Hygiene Service, what assessment he has made of the effect of the changes referred to in the answer on the functioning of Red Lion Abattoir, Nantwich. [205550]

Dawn Primarolo: We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the new approach to charging for the costs of the delivery of official controls in approved meat plants, referred to in the earlier answer, continues to be developed with stakeholders, including representatives of abattoir operators. The FSA Board will discuss proposals for this and an impact assessment at its meeting on 17 July 2008. The intention will be for a full public consultation to start in late summer to enable the new approach to charging to be introduced from late March 2009, subject to consideration of the consultation responses and of the associated impact assessment. It is too early to assess the impact of the proposals on individual abattoirs.

Mesothelioma: Health Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the funds and resources required to implement the mesothelioma framework. [204680]

Ann Keen: The Department has estimated that implementing the mesothelioma framework will be largely cost neutral as it builds on service structures already in place for the treatment of lung cancer.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on the implementation of the mesothelioma framework. [204681]

Ann Keen: The Department received 10 representations on the implementation of mesothelioma in response to a campaign letter seeking support for the 'Action Mesothelioma Day' parliamentary reception held on 27 February 2008.

NHS: Armed Forces

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS employees who were also serving members of the British armed forces in each of the last 10 years. [204474]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect data about the number of national health service employees who are serving members of the armed forces. Last year the Ministry of Defence carried out an exercise to assess the number of United Kingdom health care professionals serving in the Volunteer Reserves and estimated this to be around 1,600.

NHS: DHL

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he has put in place to monitor the effectiveness of the NHS's contract with DHL for the delivery of medical supplies; what estimate he has made of the effect on costs of the contract over its lifetime; and if he will make a statement. [204127]

Mr. Bradshaw: DHL is contracted to run the business operation now known as NHS Supply Chain and has committed to key performance indicators (KPIs), including service delivery and financial targets. A business plan has been submitted to deliver savings of £1 billion over 10 years.

While the contractual high level KPIs are used for performance and penalty reporting, lower level KPIs are used predicatively and diagnostically to forecast and understand performance.

KPI information is produced for the lifetime of the contract in the form of standard reports, which are monitored and evaluated by the Supply Chain Management Division (SCMD) of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) which has been set up to manage DHL performance. Along with KPI measurement, rigorous process evaluation and gateway reviews, the SCMD are audited to ensure processes and procedures for managing the contract are robust.

The SCMD will liaise with key stakeholders via appropriate forums and feedback routes to ensure that service delivery reflects customers' needs and that the outsourcing delivers value for money. The master service agreement gives the NHSBSA full audit rights of NHS Supply Chain.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the results of the NHS national workforce projects pilots on the European Working Time Directive. [204221]

Ann Keen: Full details of all the national health service national workforce projects pilots including locations and where available their objectives, results and lessons learned have been placed in the Library. All this information can also be viewed at the national workforce project website at:

www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/pilotprojects.html.

Nurses

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department expects to publish guidance on the commissioning of specialist nursing services for patients with *(a)* diabetes, *(b)* Parkinson's disease, *(c)* multiple sclerosis, *(d)* epilepsy, *(e)* breast cancer and *(f)* stroke. [204268]

Ann Keen: We have published Long Term Neurological Conditions: A good practice guide to the development of the multidisciplinary team and the value of the specialist nurse. This guide has been prepared for commissioners and managers to highlight the role and contribution of specialist nurses. These principles are transferable to other specialities.

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Library and can be found on the Department's website at:

www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/resources/latest_resources/long_term_neurological_conditions.html

Nutrition: Logos

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications his Department has received for a licence to use the 5-a-day logo from *(a)* voluntary groups, *(b)* Government departments, *(c)* NHS bodies and *(d)* local authorities. [204271]

Dawn Primarolo: Government Departments do not require a licence. We have received 48 applications from voluntary groups, 118 applications from national health service bodies and 32 applications from local authorities.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications his Department has received to use the 5-a-day logo on fruit or vegetable packaging. [204272]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has received 117 applications to use the 5-a-day logo on fruit and vegetable packaging. Applications can be for a number of items in a product range produced or supplied by the applicant.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications to become an official partner of the 5-a-day campaign have been approved by his Department. [204273]

Dawn Primarolo: All organisations using the 5-a-day logo are considered to be 5-a-day partners. There are currently 407 licences in place to use the 5-a-day a logo. A further 268 licences have been approved since the launch of the 5-a-day logo but have since been delisted or not renewed.

Organs: Donors

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has held on the proposed Europe-wide organ donor card. [204266]

Ann Keen: In May 2007, a European Commission (EC) Communication on organ donation suggested that the introduction of a European donor card might help increase organ donation rates across the European Union. The European Parliament has also inter alia called for an EU donor card that would complement existing national systems. However, the potential benefits and risks of a European donor card continue to be discussed by member states as part of a wider consideration of the EC's Communication.

Pharmacy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to collect information on numbers of independent pharmacies. [204598]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the ownership of community pharmacies is collected by the Information Centre for health and social care and published in the 'General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1997-98 to 2006-07 (Annual Bulletin)'. Copies of the latest bulletin have been placed in the Library and are also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/pharmacies/general-pharmaceutical-services-annual-bulletin-2006-07.

Pharmacy: Disadvantaged

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the centralisation of primary healthcare services on pharmacy services to vulnerable groups; and if he will make a statement. [204599]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1176W.

In continuing to ensure that there are adequate arrangements for patients to access pharmaceutical services, primary care trusts will consider the needs of vulnerable groups.

Queen's Hospital Romford: Admissions

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the bed occupancy rate was at the Queen's Hospital Romford in each month since January 2007. [205372]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested. Information is collected annually at national health service trust level, and the latest data available are for 2006-07.

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust manages the services at Queen's Hospital, Romford, King George Hospital, Ilford, and Barking Hospital. The 2006-07 data provided by the trust show an occupancy rate of 89.5 per cent. for beds in wards that are open overnight.

WiFi: Health Hazards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Health Protection Agency on progress on its investigation into the potential health implications of WiFi and WLAN technology. [204270]

Dawn Primarolo: In September 2007, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) announced its intention to systematically investigate the types of WiFi equipment in use and produce information on exposures to radio signals from wireless computer networks. The work started in November and should last for two years. The HPA provided a brief report to its Radiation Chemical and Environmental Hazards Sub-Committee meeting in April 2008 attended by a Departmental official. The work is making satisfactory progress. HPA Board Sub-Committee minutes and a summary of background information on WiFi can be found on the HPA web site at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebContentAreaLanding/Page/1153822623782(WiFi background)

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947341079(Board Sub-Committee meetings)

[The following answers were received for publication on 15 May 2008.]

Barking Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the financial performance of the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Hospitals Trust. [205370]

Mr. Bradshaw: We recognise the challenging financial position of Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, which at quarter three was forecasting a deficit of £39.9 million for the 2007-08 financial year. We are continuing to work with the London Strategic Health Authority as they and the trust's management develop plans for the trust's financial recovery.

Care Homes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have received NHS Continuing Care in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08 to date in each primary care trust [185601]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Chronically Sick: Health Services

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made in relation to the World Class Commissioning Initiative of best practice in the commissioning of services for long-term conditions, such as arthritis, which do not currently feature as clinical indicators in the quality and outcomes framework of the General Medical Services contract. [204748]

Mr. Bradshaw: The World Class Commissioning Programme endeavours to drive commissioners to improve health outcomes across all health needs and conditions.

The World Class Commissioning Programme requires commissioners to routinely seek and report on research and best practice evidence, including clinical evidence, which will assist in commissioning and decision-making. Commissioners will need to show that they are prioritising investment, identifying and commissioning against key priority outcomes, taking into account patient experiences, local needs and preferences, risk assessments and national priorities.

Commissioners will be held to account on their commissioning performance through an assurance that is intended to lead them towards world class.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients: Young People

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many persons *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* from 16 to 18 years of age (i) are detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and (ii) were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last five years. [197964]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Departmental Managers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the last six meetings of his Department's departmental board. [205241]

Mr. Bradshaw: A summary of proceedings from each scheduled meeting of the departmental board is published on the Department's website within three months of the meeting. The summary of proceedings from the departmental board meetings on 14 June 2007, 12 July 2007, 11 October 2007, 8 November 2007, 17 January 2008, and 14 February 2008 will be placed in the Library. The summary of proceedings from the departmental board meeting on 3 April 2008 will be placed in the Library once the minutes have been agreed at the next meeting.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of his Department's *(a)* capital budget and *(b)* revenue budget that has not yet been allocated for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [205198]

Mr. Bradshaw: Over 80 per cent. of national health service revenue funding for 2008-09 was allocated to the NHS in primary care trust (PCT) allocations on 13 December 2007. The remaining funding is centrally controlled either by:

strategic health authorities (funding allocated on 5 February 2008); and

the Department (funding allocated to budget holders at the beginning of this financial year).

Revenue allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been announced.

The Department has changed the system of NHS capital allocations so that most of the capital funding that is destined for spend by NHS trusts and PCTs is allocated in response to capital plans that are submitted by NHS trusts and PCTs at the start of the year. Plans for 2008-09 will be finalised in May. The 2008-09 plans include indicative figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 expenditure, which will not be agreed until the start of those years.

Capital resources have also been set aside to cover foundation trusts, which fund their capital expenditure through cash retained from their operating cash-flows and through prudential borrowing.

Over 55 per cent. of 2008-09 capital resources have been set aside to be drawn under the aforementioned arrangements to fund the local capital investment plans of NHS trusts, foundation trusts and PCTs.

The remainder is centrally managed. It comprises central budget funding (e.g. Connecting for Health) and 'programme capital'. Central budget holders were allocated their budgets on 17 March 2008. 'Programme capital' is funding for capital costs incurred locally of delivering centrally determined investment priorities. This funding will be allocated in the first half of the financial year.

Food Supplements: EU Law

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the food supplements directive and the nutrition and health claims directive are implemented in the Crown Dependencies of the United Kingdom in accordance with Protocol 3 of the UK's Treaty of Accession; [205920]

(2) with reference to the answer of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 551-54W, on dietary supplements: EU law, whether the Food Standards Agency has received responses from the Governments of Jersey and Guernsey to the letters it sent on 10 September 2007; and when a collective meeting with the representatives of these Governments is planned to take place. [205921]

Dawn Primarolo: Responses have been received from the Governments of Jersey and Guernsey, and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) hosted a meeting of representatives from the Crown Dependencies on 11 April 2008.

The FSA continues to work with the Ministry of Justice, the Department responsible for the Crown Dependencies, and the Administrations in the Crown Dependencies regarding implementation of the food supplements directive and nutrition and health claims Regulation to prevent trade in food supplements that would be illegal in the United Kingdom.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what weighting was given to *(a)* the number of primary care clinicians, *(b)* health outcomes and *(c)* patient satisfaction with GP services as indicators in determining in which primary care trust areas with poorest provision to establish new GP practices; [203443]

(2) what score was given to each primary care trust in determining in which to establish new GP practices in areas with the poorest provision for *(a)* number of primary care clinicians, *(b)* health outcomes and *(c)* patient satisfaction with GP services; and what the data source was for each indicator. [203444]

Mr. Bradshaw: The range of indicators used to determine the primary care trusts (PCTs) with poorest provision, their data source and associated weightings are shown in the following table. For each PCT, the standardised distance from the England average was calculated for each indicator. These distances were assigned a weight based on the three themes and each PCT was then ranked based on the sum of the weighted differences. The following table shows PCTs and their distances.

Indicator	*Weight (percentage)*
Primary Care Clinicians [1]	60
Whole-time equivalent general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 weighted population	
Whole-time equivalent practice nurses per 100,000 weighted population	
Health Outcomes [2]	30
Male life expectancy	
Female life expectancy	
Cancer mortality among under-75s	
Cardiovascular mortality among under-75s	
Index of multiple deprivation (health)	
Percentage of patients with diabetes in whose HbAlc is 7.5 or less	
Percentage of patients with hypertension in whose blood pressure reading is 150/90 or less	
Patient Satisfaction [3]	10
Percentage of patients seen within 48 hours	
Percentage of patients able to book an appointment more than 2 days ahead	
Percentage of patients satisfied with their practice telephone system	
Percentage of patients able to see a specific GP	
Percentage of patients satisfied with practice opening hours	

Source:
[1] 2006 Information Centre Workforce Census
[2] Office for National Statistics (life expectancy data based on population estimates and mortality statistics from death registrations) and Quality Management and Analysis System (2006-07 Quality and Outcomes Framework data)
[3] 2007 GP Patient Survey

PCT	*Strategic health authority (SHA)*	*Total distance*
Manchester PCT	North West SHA	-1.70
Barking and Dagenham PCT	London SHA	-1.60
Knowsley PCT	North West SHA	-1.39
Sandwell PCT	West Midlands SHA	-1.36
Wolverhampton City PCT	West Midlands SHA	-1.30
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	North West SHA	-1.18
Liverpool PCT	North West SHA	-1.15
Sunderland Teaching PCT	North East SHA	-1.13
Birmingham East and North PCT	West Midlands SHA	-1.06
Halton and St. Helens PCT	North West SHA	-1.05
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	West Midlands SHA	-1.05
Barnsley PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-1.04
Leicester City PCT	East Midlands SHA	-0.98
Oldham PCT	North West SHA	-0.97
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	North West SHA	-0.88
Stoke on Trent PCT	West Midlands SHA	-0.87

PCT	Strategic health authority (SHA)	Total distance
Hounslow PCT	London SHA	-0.86
Hull PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-0.81
Nottingham City PCT	East Midlands SHA	-0.80
Blackpool PCT	North West SHA	-0.80
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	North West SHA	-0.78
Dudley PCT	West Midlands SHA	-0.78
Bolton PCT	North West SHA	-0.75
Greenwich Teaching PCT	London SHA	-0.74
Sefton PCT	North West SHA	-0.73
Medway Teaching PCT	South East Coast SHA	-0.73
Salford PCT	North West SHA	-0.72
Hartlepool PCT	North East SHA	-0.71
Tameside and Glossop PCT	North West SHA	-0.70
Walsall Teaching PCT	West Midlands SHA	-0.69
Newcastle PCT	North East SHA	-0.68
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	North East SHA	-0.67
South Tyneside PCT	North East SHA	-0.64
Calderdale PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-0.63
North Lancashire PCT	North West SHA	-0.61
Luton Teaching PCT	East of England SHA	-0.60
Havering PCT	London SHA	-0.59
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	London SHA	-0.59
Rotherham PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-0.57
Enfield PCT	London SHA	-0.57
Bury PCT	North West SHA	-0.57
South Birmingham PCT	West Midlands SHA	-0.56
Telford and Wrekin PCT	West Midlands SHA	-0.53
Newham PCT	London SHA	-0.52
Gateshead PCT	North East SHA	-0.52
Coventry Teaching PCT	West Midlands SHA	-0.52
Bristol PCT	South West SHA	-0.52
North Somerset PCT	South West SHA	-0.50
Middlesbrough PCT	North East SHA	-0.48
East Lancashire PCT	North West SHA	-0.48
North Staffordshire PCT	West Midlands SHA	-0.46
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	South Central SHA	-0.44
Peterborough PCT	East of England SHA	-0.42
Derby City PCT	East Midlands SHA	-0.40
Bassetlaw PCT	East Midlands SHA	-0.40
Ealing PCT	London SHA	-0.38
Redbridge PCT	London SHA	-0.36
Nottinghamshire County PCT	East Midlands SHA	-0.35
Waltham Forest PCT	London SHA	-0.35
Trafford PCT	North West SHA	-0.35
Tower Hamlets PCT	London SHA	-0.34
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	South East Coast SHA	-0.33
South Staffordshire PCT	West Midlands SHA	-0.32
Wirral PCT	North West SHA	-0.32
Hastings and Rother PCT	South East Coast SHA	-0.31
Brighton and Hove City PCT	South East Coast SHA	-0.29
Bradford and Airedale PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-0.28
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	East of England SHA	-0.27
Warrington PCT	North West SHA	-0.27
Southwark PCT	London SHA	-0.26
North Tees PCT	North East SHA	-0.25
Haringey Teaching PCT	London SHA	-0.23

PCT	Strategic health authority (SHA)	Total distance
North Tyneside PCT	North East SHA	-0.21
Islington PCT	London SHA	-0.21
Kirklees PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-0.20
Bromley PCT	London SHA	-0.16
Doncaster PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-0.16
Brent Teaching PCT	London SHA	-0.13
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	London SHA	-0.11
Leeds PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-0.10
Lewisham PCT	London SHA	-0.08
North East Essex PCT	East of England SHA	-0.07
Stockport PCT	North West SHA	-0.07
Wakefield District PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-0.07
County Durham PCT	North East SHA	-0.07
Hillingdon PCT	London SHA	-0.06
West Kent PCT	South East Coast SHA	-0.06
Croydon PCT	London SHA	-0.04
Shropshire County PCT	West Midlands SHA	-0.04
Central Lancashire PCT	North West SHA	-0.04
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	East of England SHA	-0.04
North Lincolnshire PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	-0.02
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	London SHA	0.00
Derbyshire County PCT	East Midlands SHA	0.03
Berkshire East PCT	South Central SHA	0.03
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	North West SHA	0.06
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	0.06
Bexley Care Trust	London SHA	0.08
Sheffield PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	0.10
Darlington PCT	North East SHA	0.12
Northamptonshire PCT	East Midlands SHA	0.12
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	South Central SHA	0.14
Warwickshire PCT	West Midlands SHA	0.16
Milton Keynes PCT	South Central SHA	0.18
Southampton City PCT	South Central SHA	0.22
Barnet PCT	London SHA	0.25
South East Essex PCT	East of England SHA	0.25
Camden PCT	London SHA	0.26
Surrey PCT	South East Coast SHA	0.27
Harrow PCT	London SHA	0.28
Western Cheshire PCT	North West SHA	0.31
Solihull PCT	West Midlands SHA	0.31
West Essex PCT	East of England SHA	0.31
Hampshire PCT	South Central SHA	0.31
Westminster PCT	London SHA	0.34
Cumbria PCT	North West SHA	0.35
West Hertfordshire PCT	East of England SHA	0.37
West Sussex PCT	South East Coast SHA	0.42
Herefordshire PCT	West Midlands SHA	0.42
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	London SHA	0.43
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	South West SHA	0.45
Worcestershire PCT	West Midlands SHA	0.47
Plymouth Teaching PCT	South West SHA	0.49
Berkshire West PCT	South Central SHA	0.50
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	South West SHA	0.51
Lambeth PCT	London SHA	0.52

PCT	Strategic health authority (SHA)	Total distance
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	South East Coast SHA	0.53
North East Lincolnshire PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	0.55
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	East Midlands SHA	0.56
Torbay Care Trust	South West SHA	0.56
Suffolk PCT	East of England SHA	0.56
Bedfordshire PCT	East of England SHA	0.61
Gloucestershire PCT	South West SHA	0.61
Wandsworth PCT	London SHA	0.61
Kingston PCT	London SHA	0.64
Swindon PCT	South West SHA	0.65
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	South West SHA	0.65
Somerset PCT	South West SHA	0.72
Dorset PCT	South West SHA	0.74
Mid Essex PCT	East of England SHA	0.75
Buckinghamshire PCT	South Central SHA	0.77
South West Essex PCT	East of England SHA	0.82
South Gloucestershire PCT	South West SHA	0.87
Oxfordshire PCT	South Central SHA	0.87
Sutton and Merton PCT	London SHA	0.87
Norfolk PCT	East of England SHA	0.95
Lincolnshire PCT	East Midlands SHA	0.97
Northumberland Care Trust	North East SHA	0.99
Devon PCT	South West SHA	1.06
Wiltshire PCT	South West SHA	1.10
Cambridgeshire PCT	East of England SHA	1.62
North Yorkshire and York PCT	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	1.80

Health Services: Greater London

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much capital allocation to the London NHS was returned to the Exchequer in each of the last 10 years; and what the main reasons were for each instance of underspend. [205332]

Mr. Bradshaw: Underspends against capital allocations generated by the national health service are not returned to the Exchequer. They are carried forward and made available to spend in future years. Explanations for the underspends are not collected centrally.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding was provided for health services in the London boroughs of *(a)* Greenwich, *(b)* Bromley, *(c)* Lewisham and *(d)* Bexley in each of the last five financial years; what such funding is planned for each of those boroughs in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [205337]

(2) what the change in funding for health services in the London boroughs of *(a)* Greenwich, *(b)* Bromley, *(c)* Lewisham and *(d)* Bexley was over the period 2003-04 to 2007-08. [205338]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) rather than to boroughs.

The revenue allocations made to Greenwich Teaching PCT, Bromley PCT, Lewisham PCT, and Bexley care trust for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09 and the cash increases from 2003-04 to 2008-09 for each PCT are set out in the following tables.

The aim is to announce the 2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT revenue allocations by the summer.

£000

	Allocation					
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Bexley Care Trust	181,941	199,058	217,632	258,661	281,904	297,301
Bromley PCT	264,585	289,086	315,280	373,188	403,632	425,678
Greenwich Teaching PCT	238,961	262,607	287,940	344,632	372,379	392,719
Lewisham PCT	283,282	311,262	341,224	397,785	429,633	453,100

	Cash increases to allocation from 2003-04 to 2008-09 (£000)
Bexley Care Trust	109,880
Bromley PCT	153,398
Greenwich Teaching PCT	143,797
Lewisham PCT	167,366

Notes:
1. Comparisons between allocations rounds cannot be made because of changes to funding included in revenue allocations.
2. In 2008-09, all PCTs received an above-inflation cash increase of 5.5 per cent.

Sources:
1. Primary Care Trust Unified Allocations 2003-04 to 2005-06.
2. Primary Care Trust Unified Allocations 2006-07 to 2007-08.
3. Primary Care Trust Revenue Allocations 2008-09.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what timetable he has set for publication of the outcomes of the review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to primary care; and if he will make a statement; [205631]

(2) what consideration has been given to section 1.2.5.3 of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's clinical guideline 40, on urinary incontinence, in the review into Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to primary care; and if he will make a statement. [205632]

Dawn Primarolo: The review is ongoing. A further consultation will be published shortly—together with an Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment—and will be open for 12 weeks.

Section 1.2.5.3 of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's clinical guideline number 40 on urinary incontinence states that intermittent urinary (IU) catheterisation should be used for women with urinary retention who can be taught to self-catheterise or who have a carer to perform the technique.

The review of arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services in primary care is looking at the reimbursement for IU catheters. However, decisions relating to what item shall be prescribed will continue to be a matter for the prescriber to decide in consultation with the patient, having taken the guidelines fully into account.

Medical Records: Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people to date have elected not to have their medical records put on the NHS spine. [203777]

Mr. Bradshaw: The only clinical information on the national health service care record spine is in summary care records. Up to 30 April 2008, 614,052 registered patients over the age of 16 in the summary care record early-adopter primary care trust (PCT) areas had been sent a personalised information pack to inform them of the changes that are taking place, the choices that they have and how those choices can be exercised. Of these, 4,986 (0.81 per cent.) have indicated to their general practitioner or to the PCT their wish not to have a summary care record.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients may elect not to have their records included on the NHS Secondary Uses Service database; and if he will make a statement. [203787]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secondary Uses Service (SUS) database is the repository of person and care event data relating to the treatment of patients in the national health service. It is used for management and clinical quality and safety purposes other than direct patient care. These secondary uses include healthcare planning, commissioning, public health, clinical audit, benchmarking, performance improvement, research and clinical governance.

Information provided through SUS will be anonymised or pseudonymised to remove information that could be used to identify individuals but still allow cases to be tracked and linked, for example for research. Patients do not have an automatic right not to have information about them held within SUS. We safeguard the confidentiality of information about patients, while also supporting and facilitating the use of information for the purposes for which SUS exists, subject to safeguards.

Although patients have no automatic right, the Data Protection Act 1998 provides a right to have requests to stop information being held within SUS considered, subject to being able to demonstrate that processing is causing the patient significant damage or distress.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 26th March 2008, *Official Report*, column 206W, on medical records: databases, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of alerts a single Caldicott Guardian will be able to monitor and *(b)* the likely number of alerts per day. [205574]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1547-48W.

Mentally Ill: Suicide

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people who have committed suicide in each of the last five years who had been treated for mental health problems. [189867]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of mental health service users in England who committed suicide and the proportion of total suicides which this represents, in the five most recent years for which data are available, is shown in the following table.

The data collection methodology for total suicides also records deaths caused by undetermined intent and the total includes these deaths. At the time of responding, the data for 2005 were 93 per cent. completed and final figures, when available, are expected to be higher than those shown in the following table.

Number of mental health service users in England who committed suicide and the proportion of total suicides which this represents, 2001-05

	Number of service users in year who committed suicide	*Total number of suicides and deaths by undetermined intent in year*	*Percentage of people who had previously been in touch with mental health services*
2001	1,258	4,560	27.6
2002	1,246	4,449	28.0
2003	1,235	4,452	27.7
2004	1,280	4,518	28.3
2005	1,199	4,421	27.1

Source:
The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness.

Information on suicides by people in contact with mental health services is collected by the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness (NCISH). NCISH is funded by the National Patient Safety Agency to ensure that everyone involved in mental health learns and implements lessons from the factors associated with serious mental illness. The Department has been, and remains, committed to taking appropriate action in response to the Inquiry's findings.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 131 of his Department's 2007 Annual Report, what the *(a)* £1 billion NHS central capital budget and *(b)* £2.3 billion for other NHS central revenue budgets was spent on in 2007-08. [205196]

Mr. Bradshaw: Actual spend figures for 2007-08 are not available at this date.

The following are planned central capital and revenue budget programmes exceeding £100 million that make up the vast majority of the total reported on page 131 of the 2007 "Departmental Report", in descending order.

	£ billion
NHS Capital Budget 2007-08	
Connecting for Health	0.85
Arms Length Bodies	0.14
NHS Revenue Budget 2007-08	
Arms Length Bodies	0.75
Substance Misuse	0.40
Vaccines and Pandemic Flu	0.28
Departmental administration	0.28
Strategic health authority administration	0.15
Social Care education	0.13

Note:
The residual £0.3 billion is made up of a large number of small budgets.

Suboxone

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend the availability of Suboxone in the treatment of drug addicts. [205809]

Dawn Primarolo: Suboxone is the brand name for a preparation of buprenorphine and naloxone, which is used as a substitution therapy for patients dependent on opioids.

Suboxone is available for use on the national health service. The decision to use Suboxone is a clinical one and is taken following consultation with the patient about their clinical needs and priorities. Advice on prescribing of Suboxone is included within the joint Department of Health and National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse publication, "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management", published in September 2007.

Due to the additional ingredient of naloxone in Suboxone the Department received a number of inquiries about whether the instalment dispensing regulations in place for buprenorphine and certain other medicines applied to Suboxone. In August 2007 the Department issued advice confirming that the prescribing of Suboxone for instalment dispensing by pharmacists is provided for under General Medical Services regulations.

SCOTLAND

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department since 1997. [204761]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has responsibility for overseeing a programme of secondary legislation to manage the devolution settlement and elections in Scotland. Since 1 July 1999, when the Office was created, 128 statutory instruments relating to the devolution settlement and elections in Scotland have been taken forward. Of the 128 statutory instruments:

109 of these were made under the Scotland Act 1998

one under the Public Expenditure and Receipts Act 1968

18 Orders under various enactments in relation to the management of elections in Scotland

Information relating to the revocation of statutory instruments is obtainable only at disproportionate cost.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Polling Stations: Disabled

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps are being taken to ensure that returning officers take effective steps to provide people with disabilities with access to polling stations; and if he will make a statement. [205707]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its guidance for returning officers covers access to polling stations for those with disabilities. This includes a checklist of issues to consider when choosing buildings for use as polling stations. The polling station handbook for use by presiding officers and poll clerks on election day also contains advice on accessibility.

The Representation of the People Act 1983 places an obligation on councils, so far as it is reasonable and practicable, to designate as polling places only places that are accessible to disabled people and to give all electors within their area reasonable facilities for voting.

Following Electoral Commission recommendations, section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 required that councils consult the returning officer as part of their review of polling places. Councils must seek the views of people who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for people with disabilities when carrying out reviews, and were required to carry out such a review during 2007.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House how many receptions she has hosted and funded in her capacity as Leader of the House in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203850]

Helen Goodman: In due course, Government Departments will publish annual lists providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in the previous financial year. The data published by the Cabinet Office will include information for the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons.

WALES

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment the Valuation Office Agency has made of evidence of *(a)* errors and *(b)* incorrect banding in relation to the 2005 council tax revaluation in Wales. [205444]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Valuation Office Agency is satisfied that the bandings undertaken when council tax revaluation in Wales was introduced in 2005 were made competently. During the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007 (the first two years of the 2005 council tax lists coming into force) one third fewer challenges were received than in the same period of the 1993 lists, and just 1.55 per cent. of bandings were changed as a result of these challenges.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206207]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Unpaid Taxes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much council tax was uncollected in cash terms *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each Government office region in each year since 1996-97. [202644]

John Healey: Details of the amount of council tax uncollected in cash terms in England and in each Government office region in each year since 1996-97 are shown in thousands in the following tables. The data relate to the non-collection of council tax within the year to which it relates. The table also shows the amount of uncollected council tax as a proportion of the total amount of council tax local authorities expected to collect if every taxpayer paid the full amount for which they are liable after discounts and benefit.

	1996-97		*1997-98*		*1998-99*		*1999-2000*		*2000-01*		*2001-02*	
	£000	*%*	*£000*	*%*	*£000*	*%*	*£000*	*%*	*£000*	*%*	*£000*	*%*
North East	22,757	5.5	23,354	5.2	25,685	5.2	26,227	5.0	27,948	5.0	27,280	4.6
North West	58,692	4.8	56,924	4.3	60,508	4.2	65,870	4.3	70,201	4.3	73,710	4.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	41,183	5.1	44,068	5.0	46,431	4.8	50,802	4.9	51,831	4.7	50,507	4.3
East Midlands	31,908	4.5	29,756	3.8	31,976	3.7	33,711	3.6	37,604	3.7	41,171	3.7
West Midlands	36,594	4.2	37,392	4.0	45,014	4.3	47,816	4.2	47,910	4.0	49,445	3.8
East of England	33,495	3.3	34,918	3.2	36,257	3.0	40,671	3.1	41,703	2.9	40,195	2.6
London	116,602	8.8	116,546	8.2	121,743	7.9	132,875	7.9	132,233	7.2	126,506	6.3
South East	45,715	2.9	48,585	2.9	55,397	2.9	62,963	3.0	64,801	2.8	66,370	2.7
South West	36,962	4.0	36,550	3.7	39,741	3.5	40,136	3.3	43,247	3.3	42,644	3.0
England	423,908	4.8	428,093	4.5	462,752	4.4	501,071	4.4	517,478	4.2	517,828	3.9

	2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
	£000	*%*	*£000*	*%*	*£000*	*%*	*£000*	*%*	*£000*	*%*
North East	28,299	4.3	28,215	4.0	30,442	4.0	28,197	3.5	28,773	3.4
North West	77,930	4.2	81,844	4.0	76,996	3.7	84,148	3.7	91,566	3.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	49,813	3.9	51,711	3.6	53,948	3.5	56,831	3.5	63,128	3.7
East Midlands	40,918	3.3	43,847	3.3	43,207	3.0	42,376	2.8	40,447	2.6
West Midlands	52,159	3.6	50,364	3.2	50,002	3.0	53,645	3.1	57,801	3.1
East of England	43,921	2.5	49,732	2.5	52,106	2.4	52,576	2.3	51,735	2.2
London	127,462	6.0	149,103	5.9	151,211	5.6	144,288	5.1	146,765	4.9
South East	65,384	2.4	80,210	2.6	82,956	2.5	82,518	2.3	84,509	2.3
South West	44,812	2.8	46,756	2.6	49,622	2.5	47,259	2.3	48,521	2.2
England	530,698	3.6	581,782	3.5	590,490	3.4	591,838	3.2	613,245	3.1

Collection of council tax continues once the financial year to which the tax relates has ended. This means that the final amount uncollected is somewhere between the figures shown here and zero.

The data are derived from data reported on QRC4 forms submitted annually by all billing authorities to Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Departments.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent civil service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in her Department was in each month since May 2005. [199626]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table outlines recorded expenditure on *(a)* salaries for permanent civil service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in the Department for each month since May 2005.

Month	(a) Salaries for permanent civil service posts	(b) Salaries for permanent non-civil service posts	(c) Payments to temporary or agency workers
2005-06			
May	8,202,624	205,788	558,338
June	8,120,424	206,480	553,068
July	8,101,986	220,300	410,882
August	8,799,344	216,541	564,543
September	8,080,274	190,428	445,682
October	6,728,551	205,437	476,876
November	8,569,986	213,079	713,503
December	7,978,621	249,113	494,452
January	8,195,666	168,694	527,659
February	8,418,526	176,537	612,899
March	8,026,454	171,642	-170,519
2006-07			
April	8,082,381	175,139	273,238
May	7,847,599	159,258	816,600
June	7,985,103	158,687	184,727
July	8,647,698	178,078	1,204,751
August	7,844,778	224,874	-251,356
September	8,126,807	168,405	395,137
October	7,973,285	136,343	260,523
November	9,046,311	195,676	437,983
December	8,674,116	214,262	144,578
January	10,298,460	186,864	434,574
February	15,249,357	231,092	1,692,199
March	6,888,733	295,671	-10,525
2007-08			
April	8,045,669	186,048	393,423
May	8,189,351	225,695	1,150,187
June	7,808,035	230,700	3,064,673
July	8,282,344	225,167	2,128,605
August	7,877,361	226,726	2,579,247
September	7,961,532	179,249	301,913
October	8,167,576	244,213	3,630,644
November	8,895,203	310,828	-81,759
December	8,355,365	255,610	1,639,995
January	8,291,597	238,952	715,413
February	9,583,643	311,666	3,132,620
March	8,413,649	148,939	3,011,748

Notes:
1. The costs only cover expenditure for CLG central (not Government offices, who perform tasks for 10 Government Departments or executive agencies).
2. Salary costs for permanent civil servants and non-civil servants include costs for salary including arrears, ERNIC, superannuation, overtime, travel time, temporary responsibility allowances, bonuses, and other pay allowances.
3. There are some monthly negative totals in the agency and interim staff figures. These are explained by accruals/journals at year end or following a period of larger than normal expenditure from the previous month.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department's departmental purchase orders are recorded in an electronic database. [202595]

Mr. Dhanda: All departmental purchase orders are recorded on a database within the enterprise resource planning software (SAP) that forms the Department's finance system.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on *(a)* written consultation, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205848]

Mr. Dhanda: Over each of the past three calendar years to December 2007, Communities and Local Government and my predecessor Department undertook respectively:

57 public consultations (ODPM 2005)

34 public consultations (Communities and Local Government 2006)

48 public consultations (Communities and Local Government 2007)

These consultations were launched in order to inform the Department's policy development. Information on how much the Department has spent on written consultation, consultation roadshows and stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Consultation exercises form an integral part of policymaking and as such are funded from policy teams' budgets rather than a consultation budget and so a total cannot be provided.

Floods: EU Grants and Loans

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of the difference between the amount expected and the amount received from the European Solidarity Fund for flood recovery; what consequential adjustments she plans to make to spending priorities; and if she will make a statement. [204751]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 18-19WS.

Housing: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2501W, on housing: databases, (1) what the Unique Property Reference Number is of *(a)* the official ministerial residence of 10 Downing street, *(b)* the official ministerial residence of 11 Downing street and *(c)* each of the three ministerial residences in Admiralty House, Whitehall, according to the records held by the Valuation Office Agency; [202473]

(2) how many domestic dwellings in England have now been allocated a Unique Property Reference Number. [202474]

John Healey: Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) are allocated to individual properties by the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG), which is the responsibility of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA). Any questions about UPRNs should therefore be directed to the IDeA.

Unitary Councils: Council Tax

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of unitary local government arrangements on the local level of council tax. [197331]

John Healey: The level of council tax is a matter for individual local authorities. We have assessed, on the basis of councils' own estimates, that the new unitary local government arrangements that we are establishing, including the creation of nine new unitary councils, will allow in total savings of over £100 million annually to be realised. With such savings, the average equivalent annual reduction in band D council tax could be of the order of £90, although of course it is for each council to decide whether to use these savings on improving services or on reducing council tax.

Keeping council tax under control remains a priority for the Government and we will not hesitate to use our capping powers as necessary to protect council tax payers from excessive increases.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cricket: Broadcasting

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions with representatives of the English Cricket Board he has had on the broadcasting of Test match cricket for the period from 2010. [204510]

Andy Burnham: I have had no discussions with representatives of the English Cricket Board over broadcasting of Test match cricket.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what efficiency savings *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies it sponsors have made in each of the last five years; [204142]

(2) what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Gershon efficiency review; and if he will make a statement. [204143]

Andy Burnham: DCMS has three targets for implementing the Gershon efficiency review: deliver £262 million efficiency savings by 2007-08, reduce headcount by 27 posts by 2008 and relocate 600 posts in its NDPBs outside London and the South East by 2010.

Latest efficiency savings figures

				£ million
	2005-06 gains	*2006-07 gains*	*2007-08 provisional gains*	*2007-08 target*
DCMS Internal	0.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
NDPBs	73.0	126.1	145.0	114.0
Local Authorities	44.7	112.9	112.9	146.0
Total gains	117.7	240.0	259.9	262.0

2007-08 DCMS internal figures are final, NDPB figures are provisional and local authority figures will not become available until June 2008. We forecast that 2007-08 local authority gains will be £154.5 million and that we will therefore exceed our target. Final efficiency savings figures will be reported in the 2008 DCMS autumn performance report. Latest headcount figures show a reduction of 76 posts at 31 March 2008. The Department was carrying 35 vacancies at 31 March 2008 and even excluding these posts we have still exceeded our target. Latest relocation figures show the relocation of 586 posts at 31 March 2008. We have identified over 900 posts in total to relocate over the period and are therefore on course to exceed our target.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204399]

Andy Burnham: In the last 12 months, Ministers in this Department have visited Scotland six times and Northern Ireland once. There have been no visits to Wales.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the March 2008 Emerging Technologies Group. [204917]

Andy Burnham: I am arranging for copies of the minutes from the Emerging Technologies Group's meeting of 10 April to be placed in the House Libraries, with the commercially sensitive information removed.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he was first informed of the research into return path usage among the elderly commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government, referred to in the minutes of the Emerging Technologies Group meeting on 27 February in relation to the digital switchover assistance scheme. [204918]

Andy Burnham: The Department was first told of the research at the Emerging Technologies Group meeting of 27 February.

Olympic Games: China

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people will attend all or part of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games from *(a)* UK Sport and *(b)* Sport England; and at what cost. [205747]

Andy Burnham: UK Sport inform me that a total of eight people from UK Sport are attending all or part of the Beijing Olympic Games. The cost of this at current

exchange rates is around £27,000, excluding living expenses. UK Sport state that these representatives are going to ensure the UK's lead agency for performance sport is properly represented, but also to deliver key objectives and attend formal meetings around their designated anti-doping, major events and international influence roles.

Sport England inform me that Sport England will be represented by their chief executive and the director of property, and state that both have significant roles to play in terms of Sport England's increasingly strong role around talent and Olympic venues ahead of London 2012. The chief executive and director of property are attending the Beijing Olympic Games as part of the British Olympic Association's guest programme for one week in August, at a cost of £9,550 per person. Sport England state this is the price set by the BOA.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what landscaping contracts for the 2012 London Olympics have been let; and what plans she has to consult landscaping contractors in connection with the Games site. [205356]

Tessa Jowell: In March this year the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) selected world leading landscape architects IDA Design Hargreaves Associates to design the Olympic Park for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The ODA also short-listed four world-class contractors bidding to undertake the management of landscaping the northern area of the Olympic Park and all return bids are due next month. The ODA is on course to appoint a contractor this autumn.

The ODA hosted a very successful Industry Day last year and hold regular meetings with the British Association of Landscape Industry and the Horticultural Trade Association and continue to engage the market as they move closer to letting distinct pieces of work.

In addition, to help businesses access 2012 related contracts, the London 2012 Business Network was launched in January of this year. A key part of this is CompeteFor, an online brokerage service that matches the profiles of suppliers and buyers, enabling businesses to directly compete for contracts, including landscaping contracts. I would encourage companies in the constituency of the hon. Member to take advantage of this.

Olympic Games 2012: Employment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people working on 2012 Olympic Games construction projects are on apprenticeships; and what proportion of the workforce this represents. [205323]

Tessa Jowell: The latest figures show that there are currently over 2,700 people working on the Olympic sites. 74 of these are trainees or apprentices; this represents 2 per cent. of the work force. However, as part of a wider programme to improve the skills and employment levels in East London and beyond, the Olympic Delivery Authority and partners are aiming for a target of at least 2,000 people into apprenticeships and work placements up to 2012.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department met the civil service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204710]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp

The final measurement against the targets will be published in autumn 2008. The most recent figures for the Department for Transport are for 31 March 2008:

	DfT	*Percentage Civil service target*
Women in Senior Civil Service (SCS)	25.6	37
Ethnic Minority staff in SCS	1.5	4
Disabled people in SCS	1.5	3.2
Women in Top Management posts	27.9	30

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205176]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies do not hold the data in an appropriate format to provide the breakdown requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The information that is available is in the following table.

2007-08

		£000
DfT(C)	Translations and interpretations, including DfT share of EU Council Secretariat translations	70.6
DVLA	Translations, mostly into Welsh	111.7
VOSA	Translations and interpretations	72.0
VCA	Translations into Welsh	0.9
MCA	Translations and interpretations	12.2
DSA	Translations, mostly Welsh but also including British Sign Language	126.6
HA	Data not available except at disproportionate cost	—

Driving: Diabetes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will review the criteria by which those with type 1 diabetes have had retention of their driving licences, including for heavy goods vehicles, reviewed. [205770]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Drivers with type 1 diabetes (insulin treated) who meet the published medical licensing standards can hold a Group 1 (car/motorcycles) licence subject to regular review.

Persons with insulin treated diabetes are also able to drive goods vehicles between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes, subject to individual assessment of their ability to meet the higher medical standards required.

Medical standards are subject to regular review by the Secretary of State's Honorary Medical Advisory Panels and may be amended in the light of relevant new evidence.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to introduce conditional driving licences prohibiting *(a)* nighttime driving, *(b)* driving with passengers and *(c)* motorway driving until a suite of driving tests and examinations have been passed over a period of years; and if she will make a statement. [204491]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 7 May, the Secretary of State launched the 'Learning to Drive' consultation, which sets out our proposals for the reform of driver training and testing. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House. Our proposed approach is one based on education and incentivisation, rather than restriction. We believe the evidence supports this approach. However, we are keen to hear everybody's views, and our consultation seeks opinions about our general approach as well as specific measures.

Luton Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected change in numbers of flights *(a)* to and *(b)* from Luton airport by 2020 is; what percentage of flights using Luton airport were domestic in the latest period for which figures are available; and what percentage she expects to be domestic in 2020. [203293]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's forecasts for Luton airport are set out in table G8 of the UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts report (November 2007). Luton airport is projected to have 130,000 air transport movements in 2020. The split between domestic and international flights is not readily available. However, we estimate that of the 17 million passengers forecast to use Luton in 2015, 12 per cent. would be domestic passengers.

According to the latest statistics from the Civil Aviation Authority, there were 69,491 international flights and 13,828 domestic flights at Luton in 2007.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers aged *(a)* 17 to 20, *(b)* 21 to 29, *(c)* 30 to 39, *(d)* 40 to 49, *(e)* 50 to 59, *(f)* 60 to 69 and *(g)* over 70 years of age had (i) at least one accident and (ii) a driving licence in each year since 1997. [205107]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is not available on drivers involved in accidents at an individual level. The following table therefore may include double counting, where a driver may be involved in more than one accident in a year.

The numbers of car drivers aged *(a)* 17 to 20, *(b)* 21 to 29, *(c)* 30 to 39, *(d)* 40 to 49, *(e)* 50 to 59, *(f)* 60 to 69 and *(g)* 70 and over years of age involved in reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain from 1997 to 2006 are shown in the table.

Number of car drivers involved in reported personal injury road accidents

	17-20	21 -29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	Driver age 70 and over
1997	35,523	81,961	79,430	52,361	33,362	17,195	11,831
1998	34,222	79,153	80,958	52,521	34,434	16,991	12,107
1999	31,847	73,376	78,969	51,188	34,756	17,135	12,224
2000	30,594	69,810	79,229	51,742	35,229	17,294	11,877
2001	29,544	65,689	76,061	51,188	34,454	16,675	11,957
2002	29,216	64,228	73,043	49,814	33,587	16,162	12,215
2003	28,085	60,236	66,970	48,020	32,004	16,338	11,952
2004	28,494	58,326	63,763	47,855	31,037	15,830	11,786
2005	29,140	55,616	59,107	46,873	29,989	15,691	11,407
2006	29,191	53,154	54,272	45,030	28,423	15,369	10,998

Information is not collected on damage only accidents.

The estimated numbers of car drivers aged *(a)* 17 to 20, *(b)* 21 to 29, *(c)* 30 to 39, *(d)* 40 to 49, *(e)* 50 to 59, *(f)* 60 to 69 and *(g)* 70 and over years of age with a full car driving licence from 1996-98 to 2006 are shown in the following table.

	All aged 17+	17-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	Million 70 and over
1996-98	30.67	1.17	5.25	7.15	6.12	4.99	3.38	2.44
1997-99	31.12	1.17	5.15	7.29	6.15	5.24	3.49	2.49
1998-2000	31.55	1.13	5.02	7.44	6.28	5.37	3.60	2.55
1999-2001	31.71	1.00	4.83	7.39	6.37	5.49	3.75	2.74

	All aged 17+	17-20	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	Million 70 and over
2002	31.94	0.93	4.33	7.36	6.58	5.91	3.73	2.92
2003	32.14	0.86	4.36	7.28	6.70	5.89	3.93	2.93
2004	32.20	0.82	4.25	7.16	6.79	5.90	3.99	3.10
2005	33.32	1.00	4.38	6.99	7.08	6.02	4.20	3.44
2006	33.73	1.06	4.57	6.88	7.18	6.07	4.38	3.39

Note:
Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.
Source:
National Travel Survey

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving a driver in his or her first year of driving following the acquisition of a full licence there were in the most recent year for which figures are available, broken down by the age of the driver. [205108]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1450W.

In a study of new drivers, available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme2/cohort2/

it was found that the highest accident rates occurred in the first six months after passing the practical test.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Curfews

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans there are for administering curfews by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [205922]

Mr. Plaskitt: Subject to passage of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will not be able to apply to the court for a curfew order until it has made a liability order, and (where appropriate) attempted to recover payment of the monies owed by use of bailiffs, third party debt order or an interim charging order. This will ensure that this type of compliance measure remains very much a last resort.

The length and constraints of the curfew order will be at the discretion of the court within the bounds of current legislation; they must not exceed six months and must be between two and 12 hours a day.

Once it is established it will be for the Commission to consider how curfew orders will be administered.

Child Support Agency: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone calls to the Child Support Agency *(a)* were received and *(b)* received the engaged tone in each month since July 2005. [200817]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. member with the information requested.

Letter from Susan Park:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf. You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many telephone calls to the Child Support Agency (a) were received and (b) received the engaged tone in each month since July 2005. [200817]

The number of telephone calls made to the Child Support Agency which received an engaged tone from July 2005 to March 2008 is included in the attached table.

Further information on the Agency's telephony performance is available in Table 16 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons library or on the internet at the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar08.asp

The Agency has shown significant and sustained improvement in telephony performance under the Operational Improvement Plan. In the year ending March 2008 the Agency received 5,369,000 calls from clients and answered 98% of calls available to be answered, with an average waiting time of twenty seconds, and with less than 1% of calls receiving an engaged tone.

Number of telephone calls made to the Child Support Agency (old system and new system) which received an engaged tone from July 2005 to March 2008

Month	Client telephone calls	Number of telephone calls which received an engaged/busy tone
2005		
July	424,938	459
August	446,532	238
September	506,576	7,438
October	486,362	22,483
November	459,380	748
December	344,854	1,568
2006		
January	478,522	1,937
February	433,721	276
March	488,739	1,168
April	381,253	649
May	439,567	11,353
June	445,730	17,570
July	428,291	6,976
August	412,332	2,024
September	446,578	3,476
October	450,290	2,019
November	440,177	3,408
December	329,109	494
2007		
January	501,330	10,681

Number of telephone calls made to the Child Support Agency (old system and new system) which received an engaged tone from July 2005 to March 2008

Month	*Client telephone calls*	*Number of telephone calls which received an engaged/busy tone*
February	428,770	300
March	507,266	1,361
April	430,195	99
May	469,008	1,340
June	469,811	6,295
July	470,183	2,184
August	447,142	674
September	447,620	63
October	489,968	147
November	467,329	345
December	332,005	406
2008		
January	515,566	772
February	470,003	2,127
March	445,518	266

Notes:
1. Information includes old system (CSCS) and new system (CS2) telephone calls.
2. The agency does not limit its system capacity to take calls and service providers have assured the agency of sufficient trunk capacity. Clients will only hear an engaged tone as the result of a technical fault usually at network level. Clients hearing an engaged tone will often redial immediately and unwittingly add to the problem. Certain months have seen a disproportionately high number of such incidents.

Children: Maintenance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of child maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents to children in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency was in each year since 1997. [200088]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Susan Park, dated 15 May 2008:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the value of child maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents to children in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency was in each year since 1997. [200088]

Information on the value of child maintenance debt is only available for cases managed by the new computer system (CS2) at constituency level from February 2007.

The amount of debt on the new computer (CS2) owed by non-resident parents where the parent with care lives in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency was £2,194,000 at March 2007 and £2,535,000 at March 2008. The latest figures for March 2008 are un-audited and subject to change. Final national figures will be published with the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts later this year.

This debt has accrued over the 15 years of the Child Support Agency's operation and is owed by non-resident parents as a result of their failure to meet their responsibilities to their children. Some non-resident parents do their utmost to avoid their responsibilities, for example by moving house or changing jobs whenever the Agency tries to collect maintenance.

The Agency has collected and arranged a record breaking £1.01 billion in child maintenance in the year to March 2008, of which £126m was arrears. This improving performance will provide a stable foundation on which the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission can build.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of parents with care claiming income support received child maintenance in each month since 2003. [200810]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Susan Park, dated 15 May 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive. As the chief executive is currently on annual leave, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of parents with care claiming income support received child maintenance in each month since 2003. [200810]

The proportion of child maintenance cases with a positive maintenance outcome, where the parent with care is claiming income support is provided in the attached table. It should be noted that the information the Agency holds relates to cases only. A parent with care can have more than one child maintenance case. Benefits data is only available on a quarterly basis and the latest available data covers the period to May 2007.

Maintenance outcomes—cases in receipt of income support.

This table shows the number of cases where the parent with care is in receipt of income support and where a payment was received or which had a Maintenance Direct arrangement in place over a three month period. This is presented as a proportion of the total number of cases which have a positive maintenance liability or on which a payment was made. This relates to the Secretary of State target for 2007-08 on Maintenance Outcomes.

Date	*Child maintenance cases (%)*
February 2003	60
May 2003	62
August 2003	58
November 2003	55
February 2004	54
May 2004	53
August 2004	53
November 2004	51
February 2005	51
May 2005	53
August 2005	53
November 2005	54
February 2006	54
May 2006	57
August 2006	58
November 2006	58
February 2007	57
May 2007	58

Notes to table:
1. Table shows proportion of cases from which a payment was received including Maintenance Direct, as a proportion of the total number of cases with a positive maintenance liability, where the parent with care is claiming income support.
2. A parent with care is deemed to be in receipt of income support if they or their partner is claiming income support.
3. Benefits data is only available on a quarterly basis.
4. Latest available benefits data is at May 2007.
5. Figures rounded to nearest whole per cent.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what safeguards for children will be in place if the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission uses bailiffs to seize non-payers' property. [205923]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Commission will be required, as the Child Support Agency is now, to have regard to the welfare of any child likely to affected by any discretionary decision such as the decision to enforce the collection of maintenance arrears through the use of bailiffs. All bailiff firms, including those contracted to the Agency, must comply with the National Standards for Enforcement Agents, a set of common standards produced by the Government as a code of practice.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost was of *(a)* salaries for permanent civil service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department in each month since May 2005. [199966]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Permanent civil service posts

The total payments made to civil service permanent personnel in each year since May 2005 is as follows:

2005-06 April to March is £2,302.33 million;

2006-07 April to March is £2,265.63 million;

2007-08 April to March is £2,221.01 million.

These figures have been estimated for 2007-08 as the actuals are not yet available.

The monthly breakdown year is as follows:

Permanent civil servant posts

Month	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
April	—	183,650,663	181,439,533
May	—	178,704,279	180,166,267
June	184,184,323	181,831,394	180,073,281
July	229,628,089	231,126,553	219,259,385
August	190,244,934	183,848,704	187,483,048
September	188,554,349	186,551,446	184,955,302
October	186,835,067	188,370,270	185,059,758
November	188,899,193	188,042,007	181,294,277
December	186,083,845	188,042,007	177,426,758
January	184,543,406	185,373,839	181,190,191
February	184,543,406	185,576,914	183,882,559
March	208,369,227	184,509,680	178,780,928
Total	1,931,885,839	2,265,627,756	2,221,011,287

(b) Permanent non-civil service posts

The Department employs 17 non-executive directors to provide an oversight to a number of business units including the Departmental Board. The total salaries paid for 2007-08 were £334,606.16.

(c) Payments to temporary or agency workers

The total payments made to agencies to provide interim personnel in each year since May 2005 is as follows:

2005-06 April to March is £52.99 million;

2006-07 April to March is £61.98 million;

2007-08 April to March is £37.02 million.

The Department employs temporary staff "casuals" for short periods; they are recruited direct not by an agency.

These figures have been estimated for 2007-08 as the actuals are not yet available.

The monthly breakdown for temporary workers—non-agency staff—is as follows:

Month	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
April	—	1,498,908	951,052
May	—	1,296,724	876,862
June	1,623,087	1,572,925	927,159
July	2,195,072	2,480,285	1,402,637
August	2,620,664	3,137,604	1,798,865
September	2,589,109	2,614,197	1,537,918
October	2,734,967	2,093,475	1,399,916
November	2,968,417	1,974,241	1,591,649
December	3,171,526	2,099,779	1,609,386
January	3,320,723	2,201,425	1,597,096
February	3,201,721	3,217,885	1,895,901
March	2,833,316	2,673,278	1,634,024
Total	27,258,602	26,860,726	17,222,465

The monthly breakdown for temporary workers—agency staff—is as follows:

Month	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
April	—	288,429	2,030,908
May	—	6,175,451	3,494,735
June	3,498,063	2,968,338	3,035,100
July	6,295,453	1,975,004	3,681,014
August	2,149,253	6,843,648	2,559,968
September	2,628,591	3,769,897	3,507,816
October	5,918,081	2,837,485	2,878,247
November	2,839,595	3,564,802	3,753,694
December	444,857	3,675,319	3,093,747
January	2,633,343	8,618,533	3,327,606
February	2,949,923	4,153,205	4,506,148
March	13,258,606	(1,878,670)	3,960,853
Total	42,615,765	42,991,441	39,829,836

A monthly breakdown of information is not available for the period prior to April 2007 and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The following special points should be noted.

The total spend figures are the total paid to agencies for the supply of interim personnel (agency workers). This includes the fees paid directly to the interim personnel and also the fees paid to the agencies for their supply. The agency payments are normally based on a percentage mark-up and are variable depending on the agency and the category of personnel supplied. The average margin for all supply categories utilising the Department's primary supply vehicle, the CIPHER framework agreement, is 15 per cent.

The total spend figures have been obtained from a number of sources including the Department's Financial and Resource Management systems and it should be noted that the figures are based on current account codes and category descriptors and may include some miscellaneous non-interim personnel expenditure because of the difficulty in categorising. The figures for 2007-08 have only recently been extracted and are subject to further validation.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the effect of the proposed reduction in backdating facilities for housing benefit on *(a)* eviction levels and *(b)* homelessness. [200093]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions works closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government on a wide range of issues, including the impact of housing benefit policy on people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is aware of the proposed reduction in backdating timescales for housing benefit and council tax benefit claims and has seen a copy of the impact assessment. Officials from both Departments are working together to mitigate any impacts by undertaking an awareness-raising campaign among landlords, local authorities, customers and welfare rights agencies. Work on this is well under way and it is clear that a high proportion of stakeholders are already aware of the planned changes.

Rented Housing: Cambridge

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* addresses and *(b)* rental values were used by the Rent Service to determine the median rent for the Broad Market Rental Area in which Cambridge lies. [205721]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is the responsibility of the rent officer to collect information on lettings achieved in the private rented sector for the Broad Rental Market Area.

The information is gathered from a variety of sources and is as representative of the market as possible, and to ensure that the lettings information is current the database is limited to the past 12 month period. The information held is sufficient both to confirm its validity and identify the size of the premises.

Social Security Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people made a successful claim to receive *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* pension credit backdated for (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) nine months and (iv) 12 months in each the last five years. [200092]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is as follows:

Housing benefit and council tax benefit

The information is not available in the format requested because of the restrictions of the breadth and reliability of the data available.

As part of the Equality Impact Assessment covering changes to the time for claiming housing benefit and council tax benefit for pensioners and a change to the backdating period allowed within housing benefit and council tax benefit for working age customers, which is available on the DWP website, an estimate of the proportion of housing benefit and council tax benefit caseloads affected by the proposals is provided. There are, however, important caveats to these estimates which must be noted.

Figures on the number of claims that are successfully backdated are derived from the single housing benefit extract (HBSD-IAD scan). The backdating variable in the single housing benefit extract was introduced relatively recently (April 2007) and accordingly we have no means of corroborating how robust the data are against historical data. Furthermore, given that the data only go back six months, there is an insufficient pool of evidence to derive reliable figures from the data. These concerns should be allayed with time as the scan data improves.

Based on the first six months of data available, it is estimated that approximately 0.2 per cent. of new housing benefit and council tax benefit claims would be affected. In absolute terms, this is approximately 3,000 housing benefit and 3,000 council tax benefit claims per year (in Great Britain). These figures may be subject to revision as more data become available and raw figures should be treated with caution given the nature of the data.

Pension Credit

The information is not available in the format requested. Precise information on the time customers take to claim pension credit (known as backdating) is not routinely collected. The information in the following table estimates the possible maximum extent of backdating by examining the difference between the date of first payment and date at which entitlement begins. In some cases where payment starts after entitlement the delay will be due to processing times, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompanies claims for pension credit.

Estimates of the number of claims for pension credit by backdating period between 2003 and 2006

Thousand

Months of backdating	*October 2003 to March 2004*	*April 2004 to March 2005*	*April 2005 to March 2006*	*April 2006 to March 2007*
0-3 months	2,220	190	170	170
3-6 months	160	130	20	30
6-9 months		160	10	10
9-12 months		140	120	70
Total on flows	2,380	610	310	280

Notes:
1. Estimates of the number of claims by length of backdating period have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 cases
2. Care should be taken when interpreting the table. The Department does not routinely collect information on backdating periods and these have been estimated by comparing information on the date entitlement starts and the date pension credit is put into payment. Estimated backdating periods therefore include unknown periods of time that are due to processing, evidence gathering and verification work which routinely accompany every claim for pension credit.
3. Due to rounding the numbers of successful claims by period of backdating may not sum to the total number of successful claims.
4. There will be people flowing on to pension credit that will have zero backdating. These cases will be captured in the 0-3 month group.
Source:
Experimental statistics of pension credit on flows.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received in relation to the capacity, funding and equipment of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [204623]

Des Browne *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* I regularly receive representations concerning the capacity, funding and equipment of the armed forces. Ensuring that our armed forces have the capabilities they need to achieve the tasks we ask of them as safely and successfully as possible is my highest priority.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the *(a)* armed forces, *(b)* Army, *(c)* Royal Navy and *(d)* Royal Air Force (i) are preparing to deploy on operations and (ii) have recently returned from operations. [193102]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Given the rotational nature of operational deployments, the proportion of RAF and Army personnel preparing to deploy on operations is broadly the same as the proportion that has recently returned from operations. For the RAF this is approximately 7 per cent. For the Army this is approximately 9 per cent. These figures include both Regular and Reserve personnel. Equivalent data for the Royal Navy could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force, *(c)* Royal Navy and *(d)* Royal Marines were in breach of the guidelines on individual separated service at the end of the 2007-08 financial year. [199474]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current levels of Individual Harmony (Separated Service) including operations and all other military tasks, as at 22 April 2008 (Q4 2007-08), show that:

Less than 1 per cent. of RN/RM personnel were in breach of the single service guidelines.

10.3 per cent. of the Army were in breach of separated service guidelines. (This is a year on year improvement from 14.5 per cent. in 2005-06 and 13.4 per cent. in 2006-07.) The Army continues to monitor separated service with due diligence utilising directed recruitment and retention initiatives targeted at pinch point trades in particular.

9.2 per cent. of RAF personnel breached the single service guideline. This is a decrease of 0.8 per cent. on the previous quarter. There has been an increase over the past year due to changes in the reporting procedures that have brought the RAF into line with the RN and Army rather than an increase in commitments.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many military personnel had rehabilitation treatment at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court in each of the last five years; [184705]

(2) how many service personnel had rehabilitation treatment at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court after their return from *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [184706]

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel were treated at Headley Court Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre in each year since 2004. [199495]

Derek Twigg: Headley Court records the total number of 'patient episodes', i.e. the number of reviews (of which there may be many) of individual patients, as well as new patient referrals. The total numbers of such episodes over the last five financial years are shown in the following table:

	In-patients	*Out-patients*	*Total*
2003-04	1,963	2,607	4,570
2004-05	1,544	2,913	4,457
2005-06	1,408	3,093	4,501
2006-07	1,685	4,219	5,904
2007-08	1,885	4,825	6,710

These statistics require further explanation. Patient referrals cover a wide range of injuries. Furthermore, as well as serving as the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (its core task), Headley Court is also the Regional Rehabilitation Unit for London and Overseas.

Over the period covered by these statistics, there has been an increase in military operational tempo. This has led to an increase in patient activity overall and a more complex patient group requiring repeat admission to Headley Court. There have been changes in the balance between the numbers of patients requiring a ward bed and those who do not, including an increase in specialist clinics such as consultant-led visiting clinics and prosthetic clinics.

The increase in ward beds to the current total of 66 (through the addition of a 30-bed temporary ward annexe in May 2007) and improved ways of working have helped to enable the increased throughput of patients. However, it continues to be the case that most injuries treated at Headley Court have not been sustained on current operations in Afghanistan or Iraq. As an example, on 2 May, 46 ward beds were occupied, of which 23 were occupied by service personnel earlier evacuated from Afghanistan and Iraq. Most of the

non-ward bed spaces (around 110 in total) are occupied by in-patients on a regular basis, but mainly by patients who have sustained injuries elsewhere.

However, information requested by operated theatre could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have been referred to *(a)* a regional rehabilitation unit and *(b)* Headley Court in each year since 2003. [200941]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the total number of new patient referrals, for a course of treatment, of armed forces personnel to all 15 of MOD's regional rehabilitation units (RRUs). Full figures are not available for 2003-04.

1 April to 31 March	*Number of new patient referrals*
2004-05	4,320
2005-06	6,122
2006-07	7,168
2007-08	7,312

It should be noted that patient referrals cover a wide range of injuries, only a minority of which have been sustained on current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

For total patient referrals to Headley Court, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him and my hon. Friend the Member for Nottingham, South (Alan Simpson) today.

As well as having the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre as its core task, Headley Court has also hosted the regional rehabilitation unit for London and overseas patients (if they are not treated by the one of the two RRUs located in Germany). Figures for referrals to the Headley Court RRU are included in the answer referred to previously, as well as in the table. These figures could be separated out only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his announcement of 6 May 2008, what the source of funding for the £24 million to be provided to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court is. [204572]

Derek Twigg: The Defence budget.

Armed Forces: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Annington Homes paid to the Government for land it sold to the east of Layer Road, Colchester, previously occupied by Ministry of Defence housing; and what percentage this represented of the value of the proceeds received by Annington Homes. [199229]

Derek Twigg: The 1996 sale agreement between Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL) and the Ministry of Defence related to the sale and value of properties rather than parcels of land. It has not proved possible to identify the specific site referred to or the number of properties it might have represented, and therefore we do not know what percentage the land represented.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual (i) inflow, (ii) outflow and (iii) voluntary outflow rate of each pinch point trade was in the last 12 months. [200952]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables provide information on current pinch point trades. As can be seen, not all of the information on current pinch point trades is available. This is largely evident in the Army figures as there is insufficient data held on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. During the transition to JPA, which was introduced to the Army in April 2007, some data were lost. These data are currently being rebuilt although it may be some time before reliable information is available. Target figures are not available as they do not exist. Not all pinch point trades can be rectified by inflow as the pinch point may appear at more senior levels; this loss of experience cannot necessarily be grown through inflow. Some gaps can be filled by promotion pull but the challenge is to stem voluntary outflow.

Data for previous years are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. All three Services employ retention measures targeted at specific trade groups. For example, in the RN financial retention incentives (FRIs) are used to retain GR7 Instructors (£100,000 for pilot), MERLIN Aircrew and Lieutenant X Sub-Mariner Advanced Warfare Qualified (£25,000 with a Return of Service of four years). Other incentives include more flexible use of Full Term Commissions and the introduction of a Professional Aviator Pay Spine for air crewmen.

Similarly, in the Army, FRIs are used as incentives for Infantry at identified key decision points and there is considerable focus on improving wastage during training. To retain Royal Engineer Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel the Army has introduced specialist pay and extended the course to increase first-time pass rate. REME Recovery Mechanic is another trade where the removal of Class 1 time bars, development of an apprenticeship scheme and the instigation of early eligibility for promotion to LCpl have helped to aid retention.

The RAF have FRIs for a number of trades (fire fighter, nurse and gunner); introduced more flexible manning policies (such as re-engagement to 22 years for selected Base Rank personnel) and opened up Continuance as a way of retaining experience.

Royal Navy

Pinch point trade	*Strength*	*Shortfall (Percentage)*	*Inflow*	*Outflow*	*Voluntary outflow (Percentage)*
Lt X SM Advanced Warfare Course Qualified	75	8	9	12	4.00
RN Harrier GR7 Instructors	7	57	n/a	n/a	0

Royal Navy

Pinch point trade	*Strength*	*Shortfall (Percentage)*	*Inflow*	*Outflow*	*Voluntary outflow (Percentage)*
Lt GR7 Harrier Pilots	35	51	n/a	n/a	4.50
Merlin Pilots	112	39	4	2	2.50
Merlin Observers	116	46	3	1	1.50
Merlin Aircrewmen	102	22	4	0	n/a
Leading Hand Warfare	1,108	41	189	52	8.30
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	110	20	28	14	11.00
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	173	23	26	18	14.00
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	121	21	23	10	11.00
Able Bodied Diver	136	30	22	8	13.00
Able Rate 1 Seaman	351	15	32	34	19.00
Able Rate 1 Warfare Specialist	754	24	277	98	14.80
Able Rate 1 Communications and Information Systems	375	13	137	50	14.70
Leading Aircraft Controllers	75	44	7	6	6.50
Royal Marines Other Ranks	5,976	9	557	494	5.80
Sea-King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors	348	18	n/a	n/a	5.60
Cat A Nuclear Watchkeepers	217	24	27	8	5.00
Petty Officer Mine Warfare	56	27	10	1	2.40
Cat B Nuclear Watchkeepers	417	18	34	25	8.00

Army

Pinch point trade	*Strength*	*Shortfall (Percentage)*	*Inflow*	*Outflow*	*Voluntary Outflow (Percentage)*
Infantryman Pte-LCpl	13,740	8.5	—	—	—
REME VM Pte-Cpl	3,140	14.6	—	—	5.8%
REME Armourer Pte-Cpl	321	16.8	—	—	5.1%
REME Rec Mech LCpl-Cpl	214	36.5	—	—	5.7%
Int OPMI Cpl-Sgt	498	26.0	—	—	5.0
RE Clk of Wks SSgt-WOI	276	15.1	—	—	1.8
REME Fitter Spr-LCpl	407	20.0	—	—	8.2
RA Gunner LBdr-Bdr	3,370	11.3	—	—	—
AMS ITU Nurse Cpl-Capt	30	23.1	—	—	—
AMS EM Nurse Cpl-Capt	37	30.2	—	—	—
AMS Radiologist Maj+	1	75.0	—	—	—
AMS Orth Surg Maj+	7	46.2	—	—	—
AMS Gen Surg Maj+	10	41.2	—	—	—
AMS Anaesthetist Maj+	20	59.2	—	—	—
AMS Gen Med Prac Capt+	137	10.5	—	—	5.8
AMS Radiographer Cpl+	12	57.1	—	—	10.4
AMS RGN	263	26.9	—	—	8.5
AMS ODP Cpl+	75	21.9	—	—	3.6
RA UAV Op (Level 4) LBdr-Bdr	57	47.7	—	—	10.9
REME Geo Spr-WO2	270	26.2	—	—	5.8
RE EOD Cpl-SSgt	500	28.7	—	—	3.8
REME C3S Spr-LCpl	740	22.8	—	—	9.5
RLC Ammo Tech Cpl-SSgt	314	15.4	—	—	4.2
RLC P&C Op Pte-Cpl	547	8.5	—	—	5.9
RLCChef Pte-LCpl	2,461	5.4	—	—	2.5
RSigs IS Engr Cpl-Sgt	400	-0.8	—	—	3.7
AGC(SPS) Mil Admin Pte-Sgt	3,557	10.4	—	—	—
CAMUS Musician	253	16.2	—	—	—
REME Aircraft Tech LCpl-Sgt	545	-7.9	—	—	—
REME Avionics Tech LCpl-Sgt	289	4.3	—	—	—

Royal Air Force

Pinch point trade	*Strength*	*Shortfall (Percentage)*	*Inflow*	*Outflow*	*Voluntary outflow (Percentage)*
Officers					
Medical	220	20.90	15	20	2.00
Operations Support (Intelligence)	230	1.30	6	11	1.30
Operations Support (Regiment)	240	10.10	6	19	2.40

Royal Air Force

Pinch point trade	*Strength*	*Shortfall (Percentage)*	*Inflow*	*Outflow*	*Voluntary outflow (Percentage)*
Operations Support (Provost / Security)	140	1.40	17	35	3.70
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	190	11.60	18	24	2.50
Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service	130	27.80	11	1	2.00
Administration (Training)	200	13.40	10	24	5.60
Chaplains	60	24.10	1	11	2.00
Medical Support	80	12.10	8	1	2.00
Operations Support (Fighter Control)	300	13.30	21	22	1.70
Other ranks trades					
Weapons System Operator (Air Load Master)	450	18.20	26	47	1.70
Weapons System Operator (Linguist)	50	25.40	3	7	3.80
Air Traffic Controller (ATC) / Flight Operations Manager (FOM) / Flight Operations Assistant (FOA)	[1]1,200	[2]6	[3]81	[4]124	ATC -3.30
	[1]—	[2]—	[3]—	[4]—	FOM/FOA (5.9)
Fire Fighter	480	13.20	48	108	14.90
Gunner	1,630	10.40	144	225	7.50
Movements Operator / Controller	860	2.20	34	73	3.90
RAF Police	1,350	-5.60	84	172	4.40
Staff Nurse (Registered General Nurse)	280	7	48	53	7.10
Intelligence Analyst (Communications)	240	16.10	19	45	7.60
Environmental Health Technician	40	16.70	7	9	2.40
Radiographer	10	9.10	0	1	9.10
Mess Manager / Steward	460	7.60	20	42	3.80
Musician	150	14.30	15	21	1.90
RAF Physical Training Instructor	490	5.20	33	21	3.60

Armed Forces: Separation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the separation rate was for married personnel in each service in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* officers, *(b)* other ranks and *(c)* all ranks. [205128]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows annual divorce rates[1] for Army and RAF UK Regular Forces[2] personnel for each calendar year since 1997 up until the most recent data available, by officers and ranks. Naval service data are not available as the naval service groups 'separated', 'divorced' and 'widowed' together.

[1] Rates are calculated as a percentage of the average married strength during the calendar years. The term 'divorce' includes 'decree absolute' and 'marriage annulled'. It excludes 'decree nisi' and individuals who are separated.

[2] UK regular forces includes nursing services and excludes full-time reserve service personnel, Ghurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Percentage 2006[1, 2]*
Army[2]										
All	[4]—	[4]—	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.9
Officers	[4]—	[4]—	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
Ranks	[4]—	[4]—	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.1
RAF										
All	[4]—	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	[4]—
Officers	[4]—	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.5	[4]—
Ranks	[4]—	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.8	[4]—

[1] Figures for 2006 are for the most recently available 12 months which cover the period up to 1 December 2006.
[2] Following the phased introduction of a new personnel administration system, marital status data are no longer available. This table shows the most recently available data.
[3] For the years 1999, 2000 and 2001, annulments are excluded from the calculations for divorce rates, as the information was not available, however the remaining years do include annulments in their calculation.
[4] Denotes data are unavailable.
Note:
Percentages are calculated from unrounded figures and are shown to one decimal place.

Armed Forces: Staff Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow was of staff in each regional rehabilitation unit in each year since 2005. [203208]

Derek Twigg: The inflow and outflow of staff for the MOD's 15 RRUs is provided in the following table. The figures include staff deploying on, and returning back from, operational deployments.

	RRU	
	Inflow	*Outflow*
Colchester		
2005	22	16
2006	9	9
2007	10	7
Aldershot		
2005[1]	n/k	n/k
2006	10	1
2007	3	—
Edinburgh		
2005	2	—
2006	5	2
2007	2	4
Aldergrove		
2005	3	2
2006	3	5
2007	7	6
Catterick		
2005	9	0
2006	3	4
2007	7	8
Bulford		
2005	4	2
2006	3	3
2007	4	3
Cranwell		
2005	0	0
2006	0	0
2007	1	0
Honington		
2005	0	0
2006	1	1
2007	1	0
Halton		
2005	1	1
2006	2	2
2007	2	1
Portsmouth		
2005	1	1
2006	4	3
2007	1	1
Plymouth		
2005	0	0
2006	4	6
2007	4	5
Headley Court		
2005	1	0
2006	0	0
2007	1	1
Gutersloh		
2005	4	2
2006	5	5
2007	2	2
Hohne		
2005	4	0
2006	5	1
2007	1	1

[1] Figures are not known as the RRU was run by Sodexho Ltd.

The RRU facility at Lichfield currently consists of a Multi-Disciplinary Injury Assessment Clinic, staffed by members of the unit Medical Centre. Separate inflow/outflow figures for the rehabilitation element are therefore not available.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have obtained civilian qualifications issued by his Department in each of the last five years. [205308]

Derek Twigg: No civilian qualifications were issued by the Ministry of Defence to armed forces personnel during the last five years. For the purposes of issuing civilian recognised qualifications, Defence only became a national awarding body in February 2008 and intends to start certification from July 2008.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 834W, on armed forces: uniforms, how much one complete set of Combat Soldier 95 uniform cost in each year since 2004. [205124]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are nearly 200 NATO stock numbers that are classified as Combat Soldier 95, and what is issued varies according to the role of an individual, and therefore, there is no single figure available. However, the approximate basic uniform cost, comprising jacket, smock, trousers, cold weather shirt, vest, thermal liners, waterproof jacket, overtrousers, gloves and gaiters (and excluding items such as helmets, boots and socks) is as follows:

Year	£ (excl. VAT) Price
2004[1]	152
2005[1]	136
2006[1]	130
2007	132
2008	130

[1] Please note that some individual costs are not available for these years due to the transfer of contract. The price has therefore been assumed to be as per the next available year for the same item.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 834W, on armed forces: uniforms, how much has been paid to Cooneen Watts and Stone Ltd for the production of the Combat Soldier 95 uniform since 2004. [205125]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Cooneen Watts and Stone Ltd supply a large number of items to the MOD. Details of those items which form part of Combat Soldier 95 uniform are not recorded separately.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will re-evaluate the future rapid effect system project with particular reference to *(a)* the delivery schedule, *(b)* cost projections, *(c)* vehicle reliability, *(d)* the successful completion of all tests, *(e)* excessive weight, *(f)* excessive noise, *(g)* limited visibility and *(h)* reliability of the weapons system; and if he will make a statement. [204780]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Piranha V was announced as the provisional preferred design for the future rapid effect system (FRES) utility vehicle on 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 39-40WS. This announcement followed completion of the MOD's assessment of the evidence gathered during the utility vehicle trials and the further work to fully understand the commercial implications of the three competing designs. It is because of our early recognition and understanding of many of the issues raised that we have decided to embark on a focused phase of risk reduction early in the FRES UV development to give the programme the very best chance of success.

The selection decision was made by following the guiding principles of a competitive assessment to select a design that best met the Army's requirement for a combination of value for money through life, timely delivery, high performance and growth potential. In common with all defence procurement programmes, we will re-evaluate the performance, time and cost parameters of the FRES programme right up to the point at which we take the main investment decision.

AWE Burghfield

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what occasions his Department has asked AWE Burghfield to cease live nuclear work in the last 12 months; and for what reasons each such request was made. [205233]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no occasions when the Ministry of Defence has asked AWE Burghfield to cease live nuclear work.

On 20 July 2007, AWE was affected by flooding resulting in temporary disruption. At that time, AWE plc., the nuclear site licensee, took a decision not to undertake live nuclear work until remedial work had been undertaken. This decision was made in consultation with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and with Ministry of Defence officials, and was consistent with our planned operational programmes. Live working has now resumed.

Bombs

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how often CRV-7 weapons have been used in each year since 2000; and in which theatre they have been used. [193320]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: CRV-7 rockets of various types have only been used operationally in Afghanistan since 2000. As of 21 April 2008, some 2,506 rockets have been fired by Apache helicopters since that capability was deployed to Afghanistan in August 2006 and, as of 29 April 2008, some 3,731 rockets have been fired by Harrier aircraft since that capability was deployed to Afghanistan in September 2004. In none of these operational engagements was the CRV-7 MPSM variant, which can deploy a small number of sub-munitions, employed.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204398]

Derek Twigg: Official visits in the last 12 months by MOD Ministers to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are set out in the following table. Visits may last more than one day, and may contain several engagements. The Secretary of State has conducted visits to Scotland in his capacities both as Secretary of State for Scotland and Secretary of State for Defence.

	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Secretary of State	29	0	1
Minister (AF)	5	1	1
Minister (DBS)	2	0	1
USofS	3	2	0

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his departmental website. [200166]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. Redesign and implementation costs on these were as follows:

Website	URL	Cost (£)	Year	Note
Ministry of Defence	http://www.mod.uk/	400,000	2005-06	Further enhancements to the site were made between June 2007 and April 2008 at a cost of £150,000
Royal Navy	http://www.royal-navy.mod.uk/	270,000	2006	The Royal Navy corporate website was re-launched on 6 February 2006. An additional refresh was carried out in 2007 of the front page, RN live & Global operation at a cost of £110,000.
British Army	http://www.army.mod.uk	266,500	2006-07	This is the first major redesign of the Army website since 1998. Launch is expected within the next few weeks.
Royal Air Force	http ://www.raf.mod.uk/	119,579	2006-07	The redesign project was conducted through the Central Office of Information

Departmental Manpower

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were employed by the Ministry of Defence in the most recent year for which records are available. [201006]

Derek Twigg: The number of civilian personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence is published in Civilian Personnel Statistics 1 (CPS 1), "Civilian workforce by grade equivalence and budgetary employing area". A copy of the latest publication, as at 1 January 2008 can be found at:

http://centre.defence.mod.uk/dasa/natstats/cps1/cps1tab1.html

The next edition of CPS 1 is due to be released on 30 April 2008 containing figures as at 1 April 2008.

The number of service personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence is published in Tri-Service Publication 1 (TSP 1), "Strength, intake and outflow of UK Regular Forces". A copy of the latest publication, as at 1 March 2008 can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tspl/gender.html

The next edition of TSP 1 is due to be released on 22 May 2008 containing figures as at 1 April 2008.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's expenditure outturn, excluding the cost of operations, was in each year from 1992-93 to 2000-01; [205467]

(2) what his Department's expenditure outturn, excluding the cost of operations and the security and intelligence services, was in each year from 1979-80 to 1991-92; [205468]

(3) what in near cash terms the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital outturn was for operating in (i) Afghanistan, (ii) Iraq and (iii) the Balkans in each year from 2001-02 to 2004-05. [205471]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD identifies the costs of operations in terms of the net additional costs it has incurred. The costs that the Department would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries, are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—training exercises for example—are taken into account in arriving at the net figures.

The annual audited near cash figures (excluding indirect resource costs) for the costs of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans for the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 were as follows:

£ million

Operational costs for Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans	Direct resource outturn	Capital outturn	Total near cash outturn
Peacekeeping costs: 2004-05	817	174	991
Of which:			
Balkans (Bosnia/Kosovo)	75	2	77
Afghanistan	58	9	67
Iraq	684	163	847
Peacekeeping costs: 2003-04	1046	269	1315
Of which:			
Balkans (Bosnia/Kosovo)	94	-1	93
Afghanistan	34	10	44
Iraq	918	260	1178
Peacekeeping costs: 2002-03			
Of which:			
Balkans (Bosnia/Kosovo)	133	20	153
Afghanistan	224	75	299
Iraq	556	218	774

Although resource accounts were published for 2001-02, MOD does not have a full breakdown of operational costs for that year. However, the total operational costs were as follows:

	£ million
Balkans (Bosnia/Kosovo)	235
Afghanistan	221
Iraq	0
Total	456

The Department did not produce full accounts until the introduction of resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) for the financial year 2001-02. Prior to this financial year, the Department's outturn was reported in the end of year Appropriations Accounts and Estimates reports, copies of which can be found in the Library of the House. Appropriations Accounts do not, however, separately identify the cost of operations or the costs of the security and intelligence services and this information is not held centrally and would be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gibraltar: Armed Forces

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy vessels have visited Gibraltar in the last 12 months. [205633]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During the 12 month period (1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008), Royal Navy vessels have visited Gibraltar on 59 occasions. In addition (and for completeness), seven Royal Fleet Auxiliary Vessels have visited Gibraltar over the same period.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tornado aircraft have been operating out of Gibraltar airport in the last 12 months. [205634]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No Tornado aircraft have operated out of Gibraltar in the last 12 months.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Tornado aircraft are planned to continue operating out of Gibraltar over the next three years. [205635]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are presently no plans for Tornado aircraft to operate out of RAF Gibraltar. However, RAF Gibraltar is capable and prepared to operate Tornado aircraft of all types and the MOD reserves the right to operate aircraft of all types from the station in accordance with Defence requirements.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 518W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, whether the members of the former Serious Crimes Unit of the Basra Police were ever in the custody of UK forces; and what information he has regarding their current location. [201957]

Des Browne: Some members of the Serious Crimes Unit (SCU) have been held in the custody of UK forces in Iraq, although we have no reason to believe that these included any of the individuals against whom arrest warrants have been issued. Those SCU members previously held by UK forces have now been released, as our in-theatre review process concluded that their internment was no longer deemed necessary for imperative reasons of security.

I am withholding information relating to the current location of former members of the SCU as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq. [205288]

Des Browne: As I explained in my statement of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 107WS, UK force levels in southern Iraq will stay at around 4,000 following Iraqi-led operations to enforce the rule of law in Basra, and while military commanders continue to assess the changing situation on the ground. It remains our clear intention to reduce troop numbers in Iraq as and when conditions allow.

Military Decorations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what progress has been made in the implementation of the conclusions of the Joint Service Review of Honours and Awards; [203502]

(2) what consideration the Joint Service Review of Honours and Awards gave to *(a)* gallant, *(b)* meritorious and *(c)* long-standing service for (i) regular and (ii) reserve forces; if he will place in the Library a copy of the Joint Service Review's report; and if he will make a statement; [203503]

(3) when he plans to implement the conclusions of the Joint Service Review of Honours and Awards in respect of regular service personnel; and if he will make a statement. [203504]

Derek Twigg: The MOD's Joint Service Review of Honours and Awards in 2000 made a number of recommendations. Details of these and their subsequent implementation are included in the final report. I am placing a copy of this report in the Library of the House.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to introduce a regular forces service medal to recognise long service in the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [204909]

Derek Twigg: There are no plans to introduce a regular forces service medal to recognise long service in the armed forces, though such matters are kept under review. This subject was reviewed in the 1990s as part of the Joint Service Review of Honours and Awards, which concluded that

> "The proposal that the existing Long Service and Good Conduct (LS&GC) medals should be replaced by an award open to all ranks of all three services was rejected [by the military Chiefs of Staff] in favour of 'no change'."

Long service and good conduct is already recognised for non-commissioned members of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Each of the three services

of the armed forces has its own version of the LS&GC with differing regulations, though the standard of conduct is common to each service.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to invite the Committee on Honours, Decorations and Medals to consider the introduction of a medal for international service for United Kingdom armed forces to replace those issued by international organisations; and if he will make a statement. [204910]

Derek Twigg: At the present time, there are no plans to introduce a new medal that would replace medals awarded for campaign service operations under the command of international organisations such as NATO, the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU). As with all medal policy issues, this matter is kept under review.

Navy: Medals

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will change the qualification criteria for a General Service Medal with Suez 'canal zone' clasp so that Navy personnel qualify for a medal after 30 days aggregated service. [205710]

Derek Twigg: There are no plans to seek to change the qualifying criteria for the 'canal zone' clasp to the Naval General Service Medal 1915-62.

Reserve Forces: NHS

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on encouraging more NHS staff to become reservists. [204352]

Derek Twigg: Defence Ministers have met their counterparts on a number of occasions where the subject of NHS reservists was discussed. Officials within the MOD and the UK Health Departments have further advanced this issue under the auspices of the MOD/UK Health Departments Partnership Board. The Partnership Board is currently exploring a number of ways in which NHS staff can be encouraged to become reservists. These include targeted MOD recruitment campaigns and the education of NHS employers on the benefits to the NHS, in terms of clinical and leadership skills, of their staff being members of the volunteer reserve.

The MOD and the Department of Health are also developing the concept of sponsored medical reservists. The aim is to encourage specialist civilian clinicians to mobilise for a limited period within a deployed medical facility. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health announced our intentions in a speech in April at a dinner hosted by the Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers (SaBRE) organisation. The invited guests at the dinner consisted of NHS executives from NHS Trusts in the North-West. As part of his speech he also spoke of his support for NHS staff being members of the volunteer reserves and his hope that NHS employers would actively support staff who became reservists.

I am appreciative of the support of the UK Health Departments and the NHS in taking this work forward.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Census

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements have been made for release of output area census data from the forthcoming census to businesses; and if he will make a statement. [200843]

Mr. Watson: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 May 2008:

As National Statistician I am replying to your recent question asking what arrangements have been made for release of output area census data from the forthcoming census to businesses. (200843)

A consultation on Small Area Geographies in England and Wales ran for three months up to the end of February 2007. Its aim was to inform thinking on the future policy for small area geographies for National Statistics, and specifically the way forward on the use of Output Areas (OAs) and Super Output Areas (SOAs). Informed by this consultation it has been decided that OAs in England and Wales will remain largely unchanged from the 2001 Census.

Arrangements for the release of outputs from the 2011 Census are not yet finalised. No specific arrangements have yet been made with businesses, but consideration is being given to the requirements of commercial users of the data through ongoing consultation with user and advisory groups. Currently, an on-line consultation is being carried out to identify views and priorities from a variety of Census users, including business users, on high level output issues regarding data dissemination and media.

Civil Servants: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Cabinet Secretary provides to civil servants on the use of social networking sites and blogs. [198180]

Edward Miliband: The values and principles set out in the Civil Service Code apply to civil servants' use of online channels (such as blogs and social networking sites) as well as offline activity. Propriety guidance for Government communication also applies. Copies of both documents are in the Library of the House.

In addition the Cabinet Office is also developing guidance for civil servants specifically on the use of social media (including blogs and social networking sites).

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by him in the last six months. [201770]

Edward Miliband: Information on the average number of days taken to answer parliamentary questions is not readily available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what payments *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193820]

Phil Hope: The total paid to Ipsos MORI in the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007 is £376,197. It is not possible to give details as to the purposes of the spend with Ipsos MORI without incurring disproportionate costs. It is for relevant Departments to account for work commissioned through the Central Office of Information (COI).

Northern Rock

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what statistics the UK Statistics Authority will be required to collate relating to Northern Rock. [204940]

Phil Hope: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 May 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question what statistics the UK Statistics Authority will be required to collate relating to Northern Rock. (204940).

The Office for National Statistics, as the executive agency of the UK Statistics Authority, will not compile any statistics specifically about Northern Rock plc. It would be disclosive to present statistics on any entity that is competing in a market economy. As Northern Rock plc is active in the economy its relevant information is used in the National Accounts and in Labour Market statistics. While Northern Rock plc is classified as part of the public sector, its relevant information will be collated for inclusion in Public Sector Finances and Public Sector Employment statistics.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is monitoring changes in dietary habits in regard to staple foods in *(a)* developing and *(b)* least developed countries; and if he will make a statement. [202768]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is monitoring changes in diet in developing and least developed countries. The Department does this in a number of different ways. We support global research by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and in particular the International Food Policy Research Institute. We support data gathering and analysis by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). We liaise with our own in-country and regional offices and carry out our own analysis of CGIAR and FAO information.

European Union Global Climate Change Alliance

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Government plan to give to the European Union Global Climate Change Alliance. [204968]

Mr. Thomas: We welcome the European Commission's Global Climate Change Alliance, which aims to help poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change to increase their capabilities to adapt to the effects of climate change and to have their voice better heard in the international climate change negotiations. We believe that the GCCA's proposal to pilot a programmatic approach to integrating climate resilience into development planning will help to provide valuable lessons for future adaptation responses. It is essential that this is well co-ordinated with other adaptation financing initiatives and is delivered in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. We look forward to reviewing the EC's working paper on the GCCA and will consider support once this has been presented to member states.

Iraq: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken on the development of education in Iraq since 2003. [205286]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since 2003, the Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided any direct financial assistance to develop the education sector in Iraq. However, we have contributed £70 million to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI), which encompasses two trust funds administered by the United Nations and World Bank. 25 donors have committed over $1.8 billion to IRFFI since 2003. This money has been used to provide assistance to a range of sectors and development projects across Iraq, including projects to rehabilitate schools, provide essential text books and train Iraqi teachers.

DFID's wider priority is to support the Iraqi Government to spend their considerable oil wealth more effectively—to provide sustained improvements to the lives of the Iraqi people. We are therefore working with both central and local government institutions to help them to manage and disburse their finances—which will give the Iraqi Government the ability to provide better public services and to take a lead in developing their own education system.

Iraq: Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to assist the Iraqi government in developing health care services since 2003. [205287]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since 2003, the UK has contributed a total of £70 million to the United Nations and World Bank Trust Funds for Iraq, which together are spending over $180 million to repair hospitals, train health care staff and improve nutrition. The UK has also contributed £5 million to the World Health Organisation, which has helped fund emergency

medical supplies, supported clinics and hospitals in Baghdad and Basra, and supports the Government of Iraq's Health Sector Working Group.

The UK has contributed £49 million to international agencies to support protection and emergency assistance activities in Iraq. This has included the provision of urgently needed medical supplies and improving health facilities, including physical rehabilitation and training for staff.

Since 2003, the UK's financial assistance has helped contribute to the rehabilitation or equipping of over 1,000 health care facilities and the training of over 6,000 staff.

In addition to DFID's financial assistance, the UK Department of Health is providing £5 million to fund the Iraqi Clinical Training Project—designed to update the skills of around 400 clinicians and managers in the Iraqi health service by providing eight-week training attachments in the UK. Initial feedback from the Iraqi Ministry of Health Inspectorate General is strongly positive in terms of the actions and impact that the returning clinicians have begun to make.

DFID's wider priority is to support the Iraqi Government to spend their considerable oil wealth more effectively—to provide sustained improvements to the lives of the Iraqi people. We are therefore assisting both central and local government institutions to manage and disburse their finances—which will then allow the Iraqi Government to take a lead in improving their own health care services.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government have allocated to Iraq for reconstruction purposes since 2003. [205290]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since 2003, the UK Government have pledged £744 million for reconstruction and development for Iraq. So far, over £720 million of this has been disbursed, of which £532 million has been spent by the Department for International Development (DFID) (including EC contributions).

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205039]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development has built no smoking shelters over the last five years.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bail accommodation centres there are in each parliamentary constituency in England. [205291]

Mr. Hanson: The Bail Accommodation and Support Service provided by ClearSprings provides rented housing for users, with a maximum of five sharing. At 2 May there were 157 houses available in England and Wales. The requirement is kept under review. The following table shows in which constituencies these were located:

Constituency	*Number of houses*
Bath	1
Batley and Spen	1
Birmingham, Ladywood	4
Birmingham, Perry Barr	3
Blyth Valley	1
Bolton, North East	1
Bolton, West	1
Bootle	1
Bristol, East	2
Broxbourne	1
Burnley	1
Bury, North	2
Bury, South	1
Chatham and Aylesford	1
Corby	1
Coventry, North West	1
Croydon, Central	2
Croydon, North	3
Dagenham	2
Derby, South	3
Doncaster, North	1
Dudley, North	2
Dudley, South	1
Durham, City of	2
East Ham	2
Edmonton	5
Finchley and Golders Green	1
Gloucester	1
Great Grimsby	1
Hackney, South and Shoreditch	1
Hemsworth	1
Heywood and Middleton	1
Hornchurch	1
Hornsey and Wood Green	1
Huddersfield	1
Ilford, South	1
Ipswich	1
Jarrow	1
Kingston upon Hull, North	1
Kingswood	1
Leeds, East	1
Leeds, North East	1
Leicester, South	1
Leicester, West	4
Leigh	1
Lewisham, East	1
Lewisham, West	1
Lincoln	1
Liverpool, Wavertree	2
Liverpool, West Derby	1
Luton, North	2
Luton, South	1
Makerfield	1
Manchester, Gorton	2

Constituency	Number of houses
Middlesbrough	2
Newcastle upon Tyne, Central	1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2
North East Derbyshire	1
North West Cambridgeshire	2
Northampton, North	4
Northampton, South	1
Norwich, North	1
Norwich, South	3
Nottingham, East	3
Nottingham, North	1
Oldham, East and Saddleworth	1
Oxford, East	2
Pendle	1
Peterborough	2
Plymouth, Sutton	2
Portsmouth, North	1
Portsmouth, South	2
Preston	2
Reading, East	3
Rotherham	2
Scunthorpe	1
South Swindon	1
Southampton, Itchen	2
St. Helens, South	1
Stockton, South	2
Stoke-on-Trent, Central	2
Stoke-on-Trent, North	2
Stoke-on-Trent, South	1
Streatham	2
Sunderland, North	1
Sunderland, South	1
Tyne Bridge	2
Walsall, North	2
Walthamstow	1
Wansbeck	1
Warley	4
Warrington South	1
West Bromwich West	1
West Lancashire	1
Weston-Super-Mare	1
Wolverhampton South West	1
Wrekin, The	1

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 982-3W, on departmental public participation, what action has been *(a)* taken or *(b)* planned as a result of the findings of each (i) survey, (ii) questionnaire and (iii) other service carried out in 2007-08. [205448]

Bridget Prentice: Pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 982-83W, a list which contains details of the action taken or planned in each case has been placed in the Library.

Electoral Register: Freedom of Information

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the marked electoral register is excluded from the disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [205649]

Bridget Prentice: The Freedom of Information Act provides a general right to access information held by public authorities, subject to certain exemptions. The right of access under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is supplementary to the very many ways in which public authorities already provide information to members of the public. Under regulations made under the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the marked electoral register is available for people to inspect for one year after polling day, under the supervision of the Electoral Registration Officer, for research or electoral purposes. Copies of the marked electoral register may be supplied to certain authorised persons and bodies for research or electoral purposes.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments his Department has made to Ipsos MORI since its establishment; and for what purposes. [205435]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows departmental contracts with Ipsos MORI, with payment information and purpose, undertaken since 9 May 2007.

Payments made by MOJ to Ipsos MORI since 9 May 2007

Name of project	Purpose of project	Payments made (in total from 9 May 2007 to date) Incl. VAT (£)	Excl. VAT (£)
HMCS Court User Survey	To elicit levels of court user satisfaction with standards or customer service and other key service issues across the High Court, the Crown, county and magistrates courts and associated offices.	'—	'—
Witness and Victim Experience Survey	To gather consistent and comparable local and national data on victim and witness satisfaction with criminal justice system agencies in cases that resulted in a prosecution.	'—	'—
Boosting public confidence in the CJS; inform, persuade	Study to test out the impact of a targeted communication activity upon improving public confidence	19,740	16,800
Nottingham Community Justice public opinion poll	Consultation to gauge public opinion of the criminal justice system in St. Ann's and Aspley via two telephone survey waves	37,600	32,000

Payments made by MOJ to Ipsos MORI since 9 May 2007

Name of project	*Purpose of project*	*Payments made (in total from 9 May 2007 to date) Incl. VAT (£)*	*Excl. VAT (£)*
Survey on Tackling and Preventing Sexual Harassment	To provide detailed picture of the incidence and nature of sexual harassment amongst prison staff and to assist the Prison Service to deliver on its commitment to tackle inappropriate behaviour.	38,431	32,708
Tribunal Service Customer Expectation Survey	Survey originally in its third year of a contractual obligation with the former Appeals Service, it was adapted to cover a different purpose in testing customer perception and expectation across a number of jurisdictions.	43,475	37,000
Constitution Directorate tracker survey	Periodic "tracker" survey to monitor public knowledge and opinion on a range of issues related to constitution, democracy and rights	59,355	50,515
Customer Satisfaction questionnaire	To develop a questionnaire to survey complainants regarding customer satisfaction.	2,703	2,300
Stocktake of attitudinal data	To inform the development the Criminal Justice System Strategic Plan 2008-11 through review of research and other published evidence on public attitudes to the criminal justice system.	5,552	4,725
Beacon Approach Evaluation	To evaluate OCJR's new approach to working with Local Criminal Justice Boards	63,897	54,380
General Public Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (Capibus survey)	Determine baseline data on awareness of the Mental Capacity Act amongst the general public prior to implementation	26,179	22,280
Legal Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (online survey)	Determine baseline data on awareness of the Mental Capacity Act among legal professionals prior to implementation	9,165	7,800
Health and Social Care Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (paper survey)	Determine baseline data on awareness of the Mental Capacity Act among health and social care professionals prior to implementation	28,468	24,278
Office of Public Guardian and Court of Protection Customer Survey	To provide quantitative baseline data on Office of Public Guardian and Court services as perceived by users. The results for the initial baseline survey will establish where improvements can/need to be made and will lay foundations to make improvements to the Office of Public Guardian and Court services, in addition to setting an appropriate Key Performance Indicator target for customer satisfaction.	30,528	25,981
Young Witness Workshop (YWW)	Assistance in facilitating YWW	1,052	895
Statement of Purpose and DSO research	Testing of language and understanding of Departmental Strategic Objectives	36,660	31,200
Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction	To identify prisoners' needs and problems upon reception, the training and programmes they receive while in prison, and outcomes upon release.	401,217	341,462
Secondary Analysis of 2005 Citizenship Survey	Development work with MOJ analysts and policy officials to identify need and scope for additional secondary data analysis of 2005 Citizenship Survey dataset possible research project	470	400

[1] Costing information is not supplied as this is commercial in confidence. This survey is subject to periodic re-tendering and release of the costings would weaken the Department's negotiating position.

Life Imprisonment: Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 485W, on life imprisonment: prisoners release, and with reference to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on life sentences, for what reasons it was not possible to provide the information requested. [205100]

Mr. Hanson: To provide the information requested would require data matching between different sources of information, and manual checking of individual records which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost. Data migration for the Department's new database is currently under way and will be subject to data quality assurance. I will write to the hon. and learned Member within the next few weeks, to provide the information that will be available from it, where relevant.

Prisoners: Uniforms

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is in place on the wearing of uniforms by prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [205812]

Mr. Hanson: Prison rules allow unconvicted prisoners and civil prisoners to wear their own clothes. Other prisoners are required to wear clothing provided for them; however PSO 4000 provides guidance on the wearing of own clothes which is one of the key earnable privileges in the incentives and earned privilege scheme.

Prisons: Audio Equipment

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is in force on the use of personal music systems by prisoners, with particular reference to permissible volume levels. [205810]

Mr. Hanson: Guidance on prisoners' in-possession property is contained in PSO 1250 (a copy of which is in the Library) dependent on the local incentives and earned privileges scheme. Prisoners may be allowed to have in their possession a personal music system. This is at the discretion of the Governor dependant on good behaviour under the local incentives and earned privileges scheme. There is no central guidance with regard to permissible volume levels. It is a matter for local management and the discretion of staff to ensure that music does not disturb other prisoners, especially at night.

Prisons: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what institutional arrangements are in place for the aftercare of Muslim prisoners. [205894]

Mr. Straw: All prisoners who serve 12 months or more are subject to a period of statutory supervision on release. Those sentenced to any period in custody who are under 21 years at the point of release will also be supervised by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) on a standard three-month licence.

Prisoners on licence are seen by NOMS who assess and manage their risk and needs, such as accommodation, relationships, lifestyle, etc. The religious needs of prisoners are considered and treated with respect. Supervision is conducted in a way that is consistent with and responsive to the religious affiliation of the offender, and appointments are arranged at times that do not prevent attendance at religious events.

Prisons: Television

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many television sets are available for use by prisoners in prisons in England and Wales; and at what cost. [205811]

Mr. Straw: The provision of televisions to prisoners has been devolved to Governors and Directors of contracted prisons, and therefore the total number of televisions available for use by prisoners is not held centrally. Public funds are not used to support the purchase of television sets used in cells. These costs are covered by the weekly rental paid by prisoners for the use of the sets. A cell television is only available through the incentives and earned privileges scheme.

Probation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received a copy of the Centre for Crime and Justice's report on probation resources, staffing and workloads from 2001 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [204585]

Mr. Hanson: I have received a copy of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies' Report (Probation Resources Staffing and Workloads 2001-2008) from Judy McKnight (General Secretary of NAPO).

Earlier in the year, I announced an extra £40 million funding for the NFS. This was in addition to an extra average of 2.7 per cent. budget for each probation area and an average increase of 5.4 per cent. in respect of approved premises. Officials are working closely with NAPO and the other NFS trade unions on the broad issue of capacity and workloads.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the breach rate of acceptable behaviour contracts issued to persons under 18 years of age in the latest period for which figures are available. [195646]

Mr. Coaker: Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. A National Audit Office (NAO) report published in December 2006 found ABCs to be highly effective, particularly when agencies provided support to improve the recipient's chances of meeting the conditions.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were breached in each parliamentary constituency in the north-west in each year since 1997. [205630]

Mr. Coaker: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available in April 1999. Information on the number of ASBOs breached is not collected centrally at parliamentary constituency level and not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Currently, ASBO breach data are available for ASBOs breached between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006.

The number of ASBOs breached in each year in each CJS area within the north-west region is shown in the following table. Please note that the table takes the data from those shown in Table 7 as published on the Crime Reduction website.

ASBOs issued in the north-west region proven in court to have been breached for the first time within the periods shown[1] by CJS area[2] from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006

Region	2000-2002[3]	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
North-west	57	184	367	514	391	1,513
of which:						
Cumbria	2	15	23	24	30	94
Greater Manchester	28	117	219	308	203	875
Lancashire	15	28	52	80	78	253
Merseyside	6	16	39	65	51	177
Cheshire	6	8	34	37	29	114

[1] ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs are counted once only within the period when they were first breached.
[2] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of ISSUE.
[3] From 1 June 2000.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
OCJR court proceedings database

Assets Recovery Agency

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to ensure that staff due to be transferred from the Assets Recovery Agency to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) are assimilated on the same basis as staff previously transferred to SOCA from HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Immigration Service; and if she will make a statement. [190663]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The employment terms of SOCA officers are a matter in law for the director general of SOCA.

I understand that the assimilation of ARA staff into SOCA was handled so as to be fair to both the ARA staff and existing SOCA staff, with staff fulfilling equivalent roles placed in the same grade. ARA staff were assimilated on terms which resulted in no one losing money and in pay increases with effect from 1 April 2008 for around 45 per cent. of ARA staff.

Further, SOCA plans in the autumn of 2008 a job evaluation exercise for all its staff. This will ensure that initial gradings of former ARA staff were correct as well as addressing any remaining anomalies in the grading of existing SOCA staff.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department has given to *(a)* police authorities and *(b)* local authorities for the installation and operation of automatic number plate recognition systems in the last 12 months. [199582]

Mr. Coaker: During the 2007-08 financial year, the Home Office gave £186,983.25 in funding for the installation and operation of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems.

This total is made up of the following amounts:

	£
Durham Police Authority	81,373.25
Kent Police Authority	100,000.00
Merseyside Police Authority	5,610.00

In addition to this, from the funding devolved to them by the Home Office, the Government office for the south-west gave Cheltenham city council £35,000.

Crime: Schools

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to reduce crime in and around schools in *(a)* England and *(b)* Stockton. [189339]

Mr. Coaker: Nationally, the Government are committed to improving the life chances of children and young people, by having fewer young people affected by crime and reduce youth victimisation.

The main initiative to tackle crime on and around school premises has been the Safer School Partnerships (SSPs) originally launched in 2002.

SSPs are a successful mechanism for ensuring structured joint working between schools and police, to identify and support children and young people regarding as being at high risk of victimisation, offending and social exclusion. There are now about 500 SSPs of one form or another across the country. Evaluations have shown that they are proving effective in improving behaviour and attendance, developing strong and positive relationships between the police and young people, and to help young people develop a sense of being part of the local community.

Because of the proven success of SSPs, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has been working closely with the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to encourage more schools and police to engage in this type of early intervention and preventative work which is so vital to achieving the outcomes we are all committed to.

There is already a great deal of work going on across Government to tackle offenders and help vulnerable young people achieve the Every Child Matters outcome to 'Stay Safe'. Initiatives include Youth Inclusion Support Panels and the Youth Inclusion Programme. And since 2004, we have invested over £45 million in Youth Offending Teams which have pioneered antisocial behaviour prevention activities for young people at most risk. Their work includes:

Youth Inclusion Support Panels and;

Youth Inclusion Programmes.

The Home Office has invested in other prevention programmes such as Positive Futures. Around 22,000 young people are currently involved in Positive Futures projects nationwide.

The Youth Taskforce has also been established at the Department for Children, Schools and Families to focus on delivering positive outcomes for young people. The Taskforce is focusing more on preventing teenagers from experiencing serious problems—such as being drawn into youth crime and antisocial behaviour.

In Stockton, the AntiSocial Behaviour (ASB) team in Stockton borough council is working closely with schools to reduce crime in and around school premises. The ASB team consists of seconded police officers, a fire officer and council officers.

The emphasis is very much on preventing crime in the first place and building relationships with young people before crimes are committed. Each ASB officer covers specific wards in Stockton and works closely with schools in their area. They visit schools in uniform to encourage young people not to accept crime and to report it when they do encounter it.

Where there is a case of crime or antisocial behaviour in or around schools, the ASB officer will go and speak to the young person at school.

Where appropriate, a form will be completed detailing what they have done and their parents will be informed.

Crimes of Violence: Sulphuric Acid

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of assaults were recorded in each year since 1997 where the assailant used sulphuric acid as a weapon; how many prosecutions were brought; and how many convictions resulted. [205524]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible to identify assaults using sulphuric acid from either the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office or from the court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice.

Crimes of Violence: Uxbridge

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes of violence against the person and *(b)* burglaries were recorded in Uxbridge constituency in each of the last five years. [200196]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person and burglaries for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls.

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls.

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 785W, on translation costs, how much was spent on translating her Department's publications into languages other than English in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08. [203948]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 108W.

Domestic Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of domestic violence were reported to the police in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [204376]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number of domestic violence incidents reported to the police in England and Wales are collected as part of a Statutory Performance Indicator, over the past three years under the Police Performance Assessment Framework.

The number of domestic violence incidents for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 broken down by police force area in England and Wales is given in the following table.

Number of reported domestic violence incidents

	Incidents		
Force area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	14,537	14,714	15,532
Bedfordshire	7,486	7,800	7,341
Cambridgeshire	[1]—	7,081	7,501
Cheshire	4,115	6,709	5,161
City of London	102	83	96
Cleveland	9,689	12,493	6,083
Cumbria	5,568	3,809	4,372
Derbyshire	14,761	12,159	11,818
Devon and Cornwall	20,123	21,417	22,828
Dorset	4,016	4,962	5,458
Durham	8,904	8,218	8,163
Dyfed Powys	3,890	3,895	3,871
Essex	14,399	10,785	15,225
Gloucestershire	[2]6,236	6,693	8,237
Greater Manchester	56,778	60,977	64,727
Gwent	4,329	4,787	6,757
Hampshire	18,787	[1]—	22,682
Hertfordshire	12,783	10,514	10,926
Humberside	7,519	12,500	12,752

Number of reported domestic violence incidents

	Incidents		
Force area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Kent	18,321	19,464	19,087
Lancashire	22,514	22,020	22,217
Leicestershire	3,375	12,935	9,918
Lincolnshire	7,117	5,965	4,912
Merseyside	17,605	23,292	25,568
Metropolitan Police	60,838	59,905	69,438
Norfolk	5,813	8,008	7,893
North Wales	1,551	4,819	10,188
North Yorkshire	4,660	4,276	5,986
Northamptonshire	7,012	2,818	7,850
Northumbria	22,879	22,871	24,277
Nottinghamshire	4,149	15,279	17,534
South Wales	14,797	16,791	15,421
South Yorkshire	5,225	6,276	17,825
Staffordshire	6,714	16,234	18,659
Suffolk	5,515	5,532	4,314
Surrey	11,563	12,498	11,742
Sussex	15,604	14,710	14,374
Thames Valley	14,884	18,124	16,391
Warwickshire	3,455	908	6,932
West Mercia	8,486	11,684	12,799
West Midlands	33,667	38,333	40,233
West Yorkshire	34,914	34,857	34,481
Wiltshire	9,067	6,710	6,600
Total[3]	547,511	593,905	664,169

[1] Data not provided by force
[2] January 2004 to December 2004
[3] Excluding unavailable data

Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* convictions were secured and *(b)* how many sentences were passed, broken down by category, as a result of Operation Pentameter 2. [205457]

Mr. Coaker: From an interrogation of the police national computer as of 12 May there have been a total of 86 convictions for human trafficking since the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. The number of convictions and range of sentences arising from Pentameter 2 is not yet known given that the operation is still ongoing and that cases are at various stages of the criminal justice system.

Internet: Crime

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to police forces on the establishment of courts to deal with e-crime. [188917]

Mr. Coaker: The UK prosecutes on the basis of the offence committed, rather than the medium used. These is no offence of 'e-crime' but there are serious crimes committed by means of computers.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Organised Crime Division (OCD) prosecutes cases which are investigated by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). The CPS is finalising a protocol with Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) which will be issued by the Senior Presiding Judge. This protocol will provide for Designated Court Centres (DCC) for SOCA cases which are prosecuted by OCD. This will be an effective way to manage the prosecution of these cases which are typically multi handed, voluminous and raise complex and specialist issues of law. The process of designating court centres will take into account geographical factors and the size, security and facilities at court centres. The DCC, coupled with consistent judicial oversight of the management of these cases will help to ensure that justice is delivered swiftly and effectively without undue delay.

The protocol will apply to all SOCA cases that are prosecuted by OCD including cases involving e-crime.

Mugging

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons over 65 years old were subject to street robbery in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [205763]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. While the Home Office collects statistics on recorded offences of robbery it is not possible to determine the age of the victim or the location of the offence from this data.

Offenders: Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders were subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements in each of the last three years. [193857]

Mr. Coaker: All sex offenders who become subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 are subject to the multi-agency public protection arrangements. The figures for the number of sex offenders subject to the notification requirements are provided in the following table.

	Total number of registered sex offenders
2004-05	28,994
2005-06	29,983
2006-07	30,416

Pornography: Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with credit card companies to prevent the purchase of child abuse pictures over the internet. [188873]

Mr. Coaker: APACS, the UK payments association, on behalf of their members contribute funds to support the operation of the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) Hotline as does another credit card entity who is not a member of APACS. The IWF works in partnership with law enforcement agencies and

individual credit card companies by sharing information with them to assist their operations designed to tackle the commercialisation of indecent images of children. APACS played a key role in supporting a change in data protection legislation in 2006 which ensures that where paedophiles have used credit or debit cards to access child abuse images online, law enforcement can share that information with card providers so that they can terminate the contract and take away the card used.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 212-6W, on proceeds of crime, how many confiscation orders were not successfully enforced, broken down by police force area in each month of the last year. [188863]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available. Confiscation orders are made with time to pay and are often paid over several months. Enforcement in some cases does not relate to police force areas. Enforcement is primarily the responsibility of Her Majesty's Courts Service.

Tranquillisers: Rehabilitation

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons involuntary tranquilliser addicts are not included in the drug strategy. [196559]

Mr. Coaker: The Drug Strategy is focused on illegal drugs and the most dangerous drugs, including class A drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine. The reason for this is that illegal drugs cause significant and wide ranging problems to individuals, families and communities, including drug-related crime and health harms. class A drug use generates an estimated £15.4 billion in crime and health costs each year and between a third and a half of acquisitive crime is estimated to be drug related. Due to this, the new strategy focuses on achieving a long-term and sustainable reduction in the harms associated with illegal drugs.

The mechanisms by which individuals may develop dependency and, therefore, the means by which such dependency may be tackled, differ in the cases of illegal drugs and legally prescribed drugs. For example, interventions to limit the supply of illegal drugs would be inappropriate to deal with prescription drugs. Similarly, the harms caused by prescription drugs differ from those generated by illegal drug use. The latter give rise to predominantly crime and social harms, whereas prescription drugs give rise to health harms and, indeed, health harms requiring interventions other than those employed in the treatment of dependency on illegal drugs such as crack cocaine and heroin. For these reasons, it would be inappropriate for prescribed tranquillisers to be subject to the measures set out in the strategy to tackle the harms caused by illegal drug use.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Disadvantaged

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to encourage banks to offer banking facilities in deprived areas. [205206]

Kitty Ussher: The Government continue to work in partnership with banks and other financial services providers to ensure a full range of mainstream financial services are available to people living in deprived areas.

Since 2004 the Government and the banking industry have had a shared goal of halving the number of people without access to any kind of bank account. The Family Resource Survey data for 2005-06 showed encouraging progress against this goal—800,000 adults brought into banking since 2002-03—60 per cent. of progress towards the shared goal.

In December 2007 the Government also announced that 337 new, free to access cash machines are now operating in low income areas as defined by the ATM Working Group (since December 2006), with a further 206 due to be installed in the first half of 2008. These 543 new free cash machines will benefit around 1.2 million residents, who will no longer need to pay charges or travel outside their community to withdraw cash.

To increase the availability of affordable credit the Government also announced a commitment from the banking industry to support new third sector lending provision in 25 high priority areas identified by the Financial Inclusion Taskforce.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many enforcement cases brought by HM Revenue and Customs involved taxpayers being declared bankrupt in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by level of claims made. [205744]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff worked in the *(a)* escalating cases team and *(b)* intermediaries team of group 33 on tax credits in each year since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [205814]

Jane Kennedy: Group 33 in Tax Credit Office (TCO) was formed towards the end of 2004-05 to handle referrals from HM Revenue and Customs Contact and Enquiry Centres and to manage the dedicated helpline for intermediaries in the voluntary sector. This is now known as the Escalated Cases and Intermediaries Team. It is not possible to isolate the number of staff allocated to each task as TCO deploys its resources according to demand. The average number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff allocated to these two tasks in each full year was:

	Average FTE
2005-06	65
2006-07	53
2007-08	45

The reduction in the number of FTE staff reflects the general reduction in the number of cases being escalated by the Tax Credits Helpline.

Financial Services: Pay

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 142-3W, on financial services: pay, what guidance his Department has issued to the remuneration committees of those banks and financial institutions in receipt of financial support from the public purse. [205305]

Kitty Ussher: Further to my earlier answer, it is sensible to ensure that remunerations are based on merit and support the delivery of agreed objectives.

The Northern Rock Shareholder Relationship Framework Document published on 31 March 2008, a copy of which is available in the Library, set out how those principles will apply in relation to Northern Rock during the present period of temporary public ownership (see paragraphs 9 to 12).

Gaming Machines: Licensing

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was received in amusement machine licence duty in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07, broken down by category of machine; [205739]

(2) how much was received in amusement machine licence duty in each month from April 2007 to March 2008, broken down by category of machine; [205740]

(3) what estimate he has made of likely revenue from amusement machine licence duty in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11, broken down by category of machine. [205741]

Angela Eagle: The total annual and monthly receipts from amusement machine licence duty can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting and Gaming Statistical Bulletin, which is available from the HMRC website address at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbett

Information on amusement machine licence duty broken down by category of machine is not available.

Disaggregated estimates for individual duties within the overall revenue forecast for betting and gaming duties are not available. The most recent published forecast for betting and gaming duties can be found in Table C6 of the latest Financial Statement and Budget Report, at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/7/3/bud08_chapterc.pdf

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many applications for amusement machine licences were received in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07, broken down by category of machine; [205742]

(2) how many applications for amusement machine licences were received in each month between April 2007 and March 2008, broken down by category of machine; [205743]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of applications for amusement machine licences in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11, broken down by category of machine. [205733]

Angela Eagle: Premises licences can authorise machines in more than one category. It is not possible to break down the number of licences by category of machine.

HMRC do not maintain historical records or produce forecasts of numbers of applications received. The numbers of licences issued for the historic periods in question are shown in the following tables.

	Number
2003-04	136,462
2004-05	127,938
2005-06	123,702
2006-07	140,278

	Number
April 2007	8,165
May 2007	8,508
June 2007	8,911
July 2007	10,000
August 2007	29,370
September 2007	9,901
October 2007	9,648
November 2007	16,757
December 2007	7,144
January 2008	8,002
February 2008	11,405
March 2008	10,198

Interest Rates

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on decisions of banks and building societies on whether to pass on interest rate changes to customers. [205212]

Kitty Ussher: The Chancellor receives representations from a wide range of stakeholders on issues relating to the bank and building society sector.

Decisions concerning products and pricing are commercial decisions for banks and building societies.

In order to strengthen support for home owners facing difficulties with their mortgage payments, the Government—working with the mortgage industry—announced on 9 May, a range of measures including improved access to debt advice.

National Savings and Investments: Telephone Services

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the performance of National Savings and Investment's telephone service; and if he will make a statement. [205235]

Kitty Ussher: NS&I have two service delivery measures (SDMs), set by HM Treasury, relating to overall customer service. For 2006-07, the last year for which there are currently audited results, these were:

To achieve consistent accuracy in meeting increasingly challenging targets; and

To achieve consistent timeliness in meeting increasingly challenging targets.

Performance against these measures is assessed through measurement of average performance against key performance indicator targets. This includes assessment of the standard of the NS&I telephone service, which is monitored regularly against monthly key performance indicators.

The target for the NS&I inquiry line is that 90 per cent. of delivered, answerable calls should be answered and for the sales line that 90 per cent. of delivered calls should be answered within 20 seconds of becoming answerable. Latest data available demonstrates that these targets were comfortably exceeded.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he plans his Department will spend on extending the universal early years education entitlement to 15 hours per week in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [205621]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The extension of the free entitlement will enhance the opportunities available to every three and four year old, giving them the best possible start in life. Providing 15 more flexible hours will also ensure that families are able to use the entitlement in a way which best helps them to balance work and family life.

The Government invest more than £3 billion per year in the existing entitlement. In addition, the extension to the free entitlement is being funded through a new investment of £590 million over 2008-11 (£80 million in 2008-09, £170 million in 2009-10 and £340 million in 2010-11.

Funding beyond 2011 will, of course, be a matter for future spending reviews.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the figures in tables 1.7 and 1.10 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2008, HC489, 2007-08, are presented gross or net of operating and non-operating appropriations in aid. [205310]

Yvette Cooper: The figures in tables 1.7 and 1.10 are presented net of income treated as negative DEL. Operating and non-operating appropriations in aid is an Estimates term. Budgeting treatment does not follow from the Estimates treatment; this is explained in the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, which can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4/1/consolidated_budguid010208.pdf

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to tables 1.7 and 1.10 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2008, HC 489, if he will provide a breakdown of the equivalent figures for 2001-02 on the same basis. [205360]

Yvette Cooper: Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis (PESA) 2007, CM7091, provides data for 2001-02. However data for 2001-02 have since been archived, and due to Machinery of Government and Classification changes, data for 2001-02 are not available on the same basis as the data provided in PESA 2008.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what target he has set HM Revenue and Customs on the time taken to reply to correspondence from hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [205414]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC aim to reply to 80 per cent. of all correspondence within 15 working days, and 95 per cent. within 40 days. Hon. Members can use the dedicated hotlines that HMRC have in place for specific issues, such as the 'MP hotline' for telephone queries regarding hon. Members' constituents' tax credits claims.

Transfer Pricing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department deal with transfer pricing matters as their main responsibility. [205249]

Jane Kennedy: At the present time, the number of staff in HMRC who deal with transfer pricing as their main responsibility is 67.

Valuation Office: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of extending the Automated Valuation Model of the Valuation Office Agency to Wales is. [205445]

Jane Kennedy: No separate cost has been determined.

VAT: Sports

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the VAT treatment of sports and leisure trusts; and if he will make a statement. [205745]

Jane Kennedy: As provided for by our European VAT agreements, the supply of sporting services is exempt from VAT when supplied by non-profit making organisations such as sports and leisure trusts.

However this VAT exemption applies only to sporting services and cannot extend to the use of saunas, steam rooms, or to season tickets which entitle customers to use both sports and other, non-sporting, facilities. Such supplies have been subject to VAT since 1973 when the tax was introduced.

HM Revenue and Customs is aware that a number of organisations have been applying the VAT rules in this area incorrectly, and published Revenue and Customs Brief 50/07 in July 2007 to clarify the matter. However,

this brief did not change any of the VAT rules, nor did it impose VAT on supplies that were properly exempt from VAT.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 722W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Eltham (Clive Efford).

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2313W, on welfare tax credits, when David Wilshaw and Nancy Stevenson first made a fraudulent tax credit claim; and when fraud was first detected in any of their claims. [205331]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Press Notice issued by HM Revenue and Customs on 10 April and available at:

http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.asp?ReleaseID=365227&NewsAreaID=139&NavigatedFromSearch=True

Information not included in the Press Notice or disclosed in Court remains confidential.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many appeals have been lodged under the single payment scheme appeal procedure since its inception; and how many appeals have been upheld. [205617]

Jonathan Shaw: The Single Payment Scheme Appeal Procedure has two stages. Stage 1 is an internal review of the case by the Rural Payments Agency. If customers are dissatisfied with the outcome they can take the case to Stage 2 where an Independent Appeal Panel reviews the case and makes a recommendation to Ministers. Ministers take the final decision to uphold or reject the appeal.

At 13 May 2008 901 Stage 1 appeals had been considered of which 318 were successful or partially successful. At Stage 2 the Minister had made his decision on 156 appeals of which 12 were successful.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of Single Farm Payments due in 2007 has been paid. [205892]

Jonathan Shaw: Payments made under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) total £1.255 billion, which is 86.5 per cent. of the estimated total fund of £1.45 billion. 97,809 customers have received a full SPS payment for the 2007 scheme, representing 91.7 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population of 106,700.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the introduction of cost and responsibility sharing for animal health; and what annual savings he expects this to generate for his Department. [205140]

Jonathan Shaw: A consultation on responsibility and cost sharing for animal health and welfare closed on 15 April. A further public consultation on fully costed proposals is planned for this autumn.

Animals: Exports

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many live *(a)* cattle, *(b)* horses, *(c)* sheep and *(d)* ponies were exported from the UK in each of the last three years. [205138]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of cattle, horses, ponies, sheep and goats exported from the UK in each of the last three years can be found in the following table:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Cattle	0	152,754	193,309
Horses and ponies *(a)*	6,519	5,931	8,090
Sheep and goats *(b)*	314,136	293,233	208,464
Total	320,655	451,918	409,863

(a) These figures are based on animal health certification and the animal health conditions for horses and ponies are the same. Therefore, the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) makes no distinction between the species so they are combined. In addition, the Tripartite agreement between the UK, France and the Republic of Ireland means that horses that move between these countries do not need a health certificate and as such we do not have records of these movements.

(b) It is not possible to separate sheep from goats for all years so they are combined.

These figures are based on the number of animals which, following official veterinary inspection, were shown to have met the rules for intra-community trade. Actual numbers traded may be less (as some animals may not be loaded on vehicle). They represent trade from the UK to other EU member states (excluding Switzerland, Norway, UK-UK trade, Channel Islands, transit to third countries, and including/excluding Romania/Bulgaria depending on year).

Beekeeping: Research

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research projects on beekeeping have been funded by his Department in the last five years; what bids for funding for such research projects his Department has not accepted during that period; and if he will make a statement. [205250]

Jonathan Shaw: The following projects have been funded by DEFRA in the last five years.

Project	From	To	Cost (£)
HH0817THB: The control of exotic bee diseases and their likely interactions with UK conditions	2001	2004	330,000
HH0819SHB: Fungal control of Varroa jacobsoni (destructor)	2002	2006	383,802
HH3126SHB: Evaluation of TaqMan real-time PCR for detection of Aethina tumida (Small Hive Beetle)	2005	2005	14,348
HH3223SHB: Minimisation of oxytetracycline levels in honey after antibiotic treatment	2003	2004	25,000
HH3234SHB: Optimisation of detection methods for Melissococcus plutonius (European foulbrood, EFB)	2005	2005	10,101
HH3235SHB: Honey bee virus detection and discrimination	2005	2005	25,233
HH3815SHB: A promotional publication summarising the DEFRA Bee Health Research and Development activity over 10 years	2004	2005	9,920
PH0410: The taxonomy of UK and exotic honey bee viruses: a molecular approach (PhD Fellowship)	2007	2010	81,248
PH0502: Assessing the effectiveness of the shook swarm method for controlling European Foul Brood	2006	2008	185,393
PH0503: Development of a monitoring system for the small hive beetle, Aethina tumida (Murray)	2006	2008	225,772
PN0936: The effects of endocrine disrupters on honeybee populations	2001	2004	86,148
PN0945: Assessing the impact of mixtures of pyrethroids and fungicides on honeybees	2001	2004	55,718
PS2322: Assessment of the risk posed to honeybees by systemic pesticides	2005	2007	46,104
VM02140: Investigation of the fate of veterinary drugs used in apiculture	2004	2007	180,589
VM02156: Investigation into the experimental protocols required to determine Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in honey: Preliminary study using organic acids as model compounds to propose ways in which withdrawal times might be calculated	2007	2010	287,083

We do not have full records of bids that were not funded in the last five years. With respect to the last two years, there was a bid for a three-year project to develop management strategies for small hive beetle which was not funded although a shorter project to develop a monitoring system for the small hive beetle is ongoing. There was also an outline proposal but no formal bid for a project to build upon previous DEFRA funded work to develop a biological control product for the varroa mite. This project is still being discussed; a decision has yet to be made about whether this work will be funded.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has commissioned into the relationship between tuberculosis in animals and human strains of the disease. [204955]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has not commissioned any recent research into the relationship between bovine TB in animals and TB in humans. The risk of humans contracting *Mycobacterium* bovis (*M.* bovis) infection from cattle in Great Britain is considered low due to robust human health controls (cattle surveillance and slaughter of infected animals; controls on milk and meat; occupational health controls; and Government Departments and agencies working together to monitor the situation). The majority of cases of tuberculosis in humans are caused by a different organism, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

At present, less than 1 per cent. of all confirmed cases of TB in humans are due to infection with *M.* bovis. In these cases, the Health Protection Agency carries out epidemiological investigations into the source and route of transmission of the infection. Most *M.* bovis infections identified in Britain in the present day have been picked up abroad or prior to the introduction of widespread pasteurisation of milk.

DEFRA monitors all cases of *M.* bovis in humans to assess the implications for animal health controls.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence he has considered on the relationship between the size of herds and the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in cattle. [204956]

Jonathan Shaw: We have considered a range of evidence relating to risk factors which may increase the likelihood of TB in cattle herds. An association between increased herd size and an increased risk of TB herd breakdown, and persistence of infection, has been reported by several recent studies in the scientific literature. However, the relationship is not straightforward. Testing more animals is likely to result in an increased probability of obtaining a positive test result in the herd, and herd size may be a proxy for other management-related risk factors such as herd turnover rates and stocking density, farm enterprise factors, and risks from foodstuffs.

Carbon Emissions: Retail Trade

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will discuss with representatives of the retail sector the effect on energy use of the practice of high street stores leaving their doors open to attract customers. [205823]

Mr. Woolas: The Carbon Trust, which receives funding from DEFRA, runs the UK's main energy efficiency advice programme for business and the public sector, providing tailored advice to retailers about reducing their energy use including the implications of keeping shop doors open during cold weather. The Carbon Trust's publication aimed at retailers: "Retail—Energy management—the new profit centre for retail businesses" (CTV001) contains a wide range of advice to help retailers cut their energy costs and includes a section entitled "Open door policy?" This addresses the issue of heat loss caused by open doors, recommending that retailers keep external doors open only at busy times or install automatic or revolving doors or a draught lobby.

The Carbon Trust is also working with the British Retail Consortium (BRC) to support its new Climate Change initiative 'A Better Retailing Climate' which details the BRC's commitment to lowering emissions

across the retail sector through a suite of initiatives, including reducing emissions from buildings by 15 per cent. by 2013.

Departmental Contracts

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what security checks are carried out on civilian contractors working in his Department's establishments. [205391]

Jonathan Shaw: All contractors who need unescorted access to DEFRA buildings, access to computer systems, information and other assets are subject to checks in accordance with the Cabinet Office Baseline Personnel Security Standard. Contractors complete a form and give proof of their identity. When identity documents have been checked and a legal right to work in this country has been established then random criminal records checks are made. Some contractors are subject to Counter Terrorism Checks and higher levels of security clearance.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205184]

Jonathan Shaw: The translation section of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs commissioned freelance translations to the value of £31,957.59 on behalf of DEFRA and its executive agencies in the financial year 2007-08. The language breakdown was as follows (includes translation both from and into the foreign language):

Language	*Cost (£)*
French	9,468.72
Welsh	8,864.60
Portuguese	1,790.40
German	1,748.34
Russian	1,474.78
Japanese	1,410.00
Danish	809.80
Spanish	751.58
Chinese	716.85
Italian	674.89
Turkish	534.63
Dutch	419.48
Polish	402.95
Ukrainian	352.75
Hindi	323.13
Czech	315.08
Korean	282.00
Hungarian	205.63
Lithuanian	199.75
Moldavian	117.53
Serbian	111.63
Arabic	88.13
Bosnian	88.13
Croatian	88.13
Bulgarian	82.25
Estonian	82.25
Finnish	82.25
Latvian	82.25
Romanian	82.25
Slovak	82.25
Slovene	82.25
Swedish	82.25
Greek	60.68

Interpretations are commissioned on an ad hoc basis by individual DEFRA business units out of delegated budgets. Information on interpretations is not held centrally and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Dogs: Electric Shock Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has commissioned on the *(a)* effectiveness, *(b)* efficacy and *(c)* ethics of using electric shock collars on dogs. [204957]

Jonathan Shaw: We have recently commissioned a research project to assess the effect of electronic training aids on the welfare of dogs. The research is due to be completed in 2010.

We have also asked the Companion Animal Welfare Council, an advisory body on companion animal welfare matters, to undertake an independent study of available evidence on the use of these electronic training aids to complement our funded study.

Environment Agency: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Environment Agency's net receipts from contingency fees were in each of the last three years. [205465]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency does not have contingency fees.

Farms

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records his Department holds on the average cost of farmland in different parts of England. [204511]

Jonathan Shaw: Agricultural land sales transactions data for Government Office Regions (GOR) in England supplied by the Valuations Office Agency (VOA) is available to the end of 2004. For this dataset some county level information is available though this is dependent on the number of transactions in a given period. Subsequent to 2004, trends in land sales across GORs have been monitored through the VOA property market reports and RICS rural land market survey. Additionally, the Farm Business Survey (commissioned by DEFRA on an annual basis) records the value of land on farms in England as part of its measurement of farm assets.

Fisheries

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether *(a)* UK and *(b)* other EU member states' fishing vessels are permitted to engage in pair-trawling in the six to 12 mile band of UK waters; and if he will make a statement; [204824]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of pair-trawling in UK waters on *(a)* bass and *(b)* dolphins; and what steps he plans to take to reduce adverse effects. [204825]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2004 we banned pelagic pair trawling for bass by UK vessels within 12 miles of the south west coast of England (within ICES area VIIe) as this fishery was shown to have relatively high levels of cetacean by-catch. Other bass fisheries, such as gillnetting and hand lining, and pair trawl fisheries targeting other species have not been affected.

The UK asked that the ban on pelagic pair trawling for bass be extended to the vessels of other member states, who are currently permitted to fish between six and 12 miles off the south west English coast (under Article 9 of Council Regulation EC No. 2371/2002), but this was turned down by the European Commission. We could therefore only take unilateral action for our own vessels out to 12 miles.

There is ongoing research funded by the Department and carried out by the Sea Mammal Research Unit to monitor by-catch in all relevant UK fishery sectors, including the bass pair trawl fishery, and to research by-catch mitigation measures in order to identify measures that are effective at deterring cetaceans over the long-term and that are safe and cost-effective for the industry. Further analysis of the effectiveness of the 12 mile ban of sea bass pair trawling will be undertaken as further data becomes available.

The scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in 2004, based on analytical assessments of UK inshore bass stocks, suggest that the bass stock is fished sustainably. Updated assessments have been carried out by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), in 2006 and 2008. These confirm the earlier assessment indicating that current levels of both bass landings and biomass are high.

The 2007 UK report to the European Commission on observed cetacean by-catch levels in certain fisheries, as required by Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004, includes estimates of common dolphin and harbour porpoise by-catch in the south-west for 2005 and 2006 in gillnet, tangle net and bass mid-water pair trawls. The UK is not due to report to the European Commission on 2006-07 observed by-catch levels until June. It is for each member state to monitor by-catch on their own vessels and submit their findings to the European Commission.

Fisheries: Fuels

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to assist UK fishermen to meet rising fuel costs; what other measures to assist fishermen with fuel costs would be permissible under EU rules; and what benchmarking his Department has undertaken of UK assistance on fuel prices to fishermen against measures taken by other EU member states. [204779]

Jonathan Shaw: The emphasis of any assistance to the fishing industry should be on building a sustainable future. I am, therefore, considering what steps can be taken to help the industry adapt to the changing environment including, increased fuel costs, and am meeting with industry representatives to discuss this. Among the considerations will be the relative competitiveness of the fleet compared to other member states.

Some of these steps can be funded under the European Fisheries Fund; other aid can be granted up to the de minimis limit for state aid set out in Commission Regulation 875/2007.

Floods: EU Grants and Loans

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether state aid rules apply to monies dispensed from the European Solidarity Fund to address problems faced by farmers as a result of recent severe flooding. [205891]

Mr. Woolas: Monies received from The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) are not subject to European Agricultural State Aid rules. EUSF funds are specifically to help member states meet the uninsurable costs to public bodies of dealing with natural disasters and are not for use in any sector-specific support measures that may threaten to distort the market and would therefore require state aid clearance.

Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research on the effects of activities thought to contribute to anthropomorphic climate change, including overgrazing and deforestation, on trends in the levels of global food prices; and if he will make a statement. [204684]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department recognises the effects of climate change, and activities thought to contribute to climate change, across the range of its portfolio and research is ongoing in these areas.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research on the effects of G8 agricultural subsidies on trends in global food prices; and if he will make a statement. [204685]

Jonathan Shaw: Trends in global food prices are analysed annually in the 'Agricultural Outlook' prepared jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Changes in G8 policies have not been identified as major drivers of recent developments, with the exception of support for biofuel crops. There is already a substantial economic literature on the wider question of G8 agricultural support. This shows that such support tends to increase

food output, reduce prices in the rest of the world, and increase the overall cost of food production by displacing production from low-cost to G8 countries.

Food: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support is being provided by his Department to promote food waste collection for the commercial sector. [204501]

Joan Ruddock: The Government aim to reduce the amount of food waste created by businesses and consumers; and to encourage better management through environmentally friendly treatment of waste where prevention is not possible.

The Government funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has a target to divert 100,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill by March 2008. Retailers agreed in the Courtauld Commitment One Year On event, in November 2006, to work with WRAP to help deliver this target. In recent months they have been joined by many significant food manufacturers. This work will provide the evidence base as to how post-consumer food waste can be diverted and the Government will be expecting retailers and manufacturers to help tackle the climate change impacts of food waste.

Food waste collections from commercial businesses were promoted by WRAP's Recycle at Work programme from 2006-08. WRAP commissioned four commercial food waste trials during this time; they ran from October 2006 to June 2007. WRAP commissioned independent evaluation of the trials between October 2007 and March 2008. The Executive Summary of the evaluation will be made available on the WRAP website shortly. WRAP's Good Practice Guidance on providing recycling services to businesses is also available from the WRAP website, providing guidance on setting up and marketing recycling services to Small or Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

WRAP advises local authorities on waste collection arrangements. Where appropriate, it advises them to consider opportunities for the co-collection of food waste from commercial premises with food waste from domestic properties, to help with the economics of household food waste collections.

DEFRA is working closely with the food industry to improve its environmental impact through the Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS). The FISS targets a reduction in the food industry's own wastes of 15 to 20 per cent. by 2010.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many food waste trials he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* approved; and when the results of the trials are expected. [205015]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), with funding from DEFRA, has been running a programme of food waste collection trials involving 18 local authorities in England. Most of these trials have been operating since May 2007. Evaluation of the trials is under way and the results will be available in the summer.

Horses: Exports

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the animal welfare standards for live horses and ponies being exported from the UK. [205137]

Jonathan Shaw: There are continuous checks on the welfare of horses and ponies exported from the United Kingdom. There are fitness to travel checks carried out as part of export health certification and checks carried out at places of departure and ports and airports to ensure compliance with all the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the welfare of animals during transport.

Litter

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has recently *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated relating to (i) litter and (ii) fly-tipping in England. [204656]

Joan Ruddock: My Department and the Environment Agency jointly commissioned ENCAMS in June 2007 to carry out a research project to explore the current perceptions among householders and tradespeople of the waste duty of care and the waste carrier registration regime. It specifically sought to understand:

- awareness of the waste carrier register/duty of care among tradespeople and the general public;
- triggers and barriers to registration on the part of tradespeople;
- the usefulness of the register to the general public;
- possible motivational messages/information to encourage tradespeople to register, and the public to use registered tradespeople.

ENCAMS delivered the results of this research in December 2007 and we will publish the results in due course. The results will inform any future DEFRA funded awareness raising work on fly-tipping, in particular, any campaign to support the new duty of care and waste carrier/broker registration regimes that is planned for adoption in April 2009.

ENCAMS was asked to look at what materials were collected alongside litter in public places and how they were dealt with and measured as part of the development of the 'Recycle on the Go' Voluntary Code of Practice, shortly to be launched by DEFRA. This was carried out between January and March 2007 and was funded through ENCAMS' DEFRA grant. It is not yet published but a summary is available.

The Annual Local Environmental Quality Survey of England measures littering (under different source types) and records incidences of fly-tipping and waste placed out. The latest report is 2006-07, published on both the DEFRA and ENCAMS websites. The detailed sources of fly-tipping and wastes placed out is collected but not published. It is available on request.

Pollution: Power Stations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects on *(a)* fish and *(b)* other marine creatures of thermal discharges from power plants to (i) rivers and (ii) coastal waters. [202082]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department obtains assessments of the potential effects of thermal discharges on fish and ecosystems at specific sites on an as-needs basis. These assessments are based on a variety of information, including knowledge of the thermal tolerances of fish and their ability to avoid unfavourable conditions, and the overall impacts on available habitat, much of which has been obtained from current and past research funded by DEFRA.

Recycling: Non-profit Making Associations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the role of co-operative enterprises in recycling and waste minimisation. [205013]

Joan Ruddock: Our Waste Strategy, published in 2007, acknowledges the strengths which third sector organisations can bring to waste and recycling. We have encouraged the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), which is partly funded by my Department, to bring forward a new programme to build their capacity.

Waste Disposal: Construction

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that waste from projects on construction sites with an estimated cost of less than £300,000 is disposed of properly; and if he will make a statement. [204655]

Joan Ruddock: Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) are mandatory for all construction projects in England costing £300,000 or more.

In addition, implementation of a SWMP is a mandatory minimum requirement under the Department for Communities and Local Government's (CLG) Code for Sustainable Homes. From 1 May 2008, a mandatory rating against the Code is required for all new home build developments, regardless of cost.

Moreover, local authorities are empowered to make SWMPs mandatory within the conditions of their planning permission for any construction project.

Duty of care requirements and waste transfer controls apply to waste from all construction projects, regardless of cost. My Department will shortly be consulting on a review of the waste duty of care and waste carrier and broker registration regimes. The aim of this review is to reduce levels of waste crime by simplifying and modernising these regimes, making them easier to comply with and enforce while tackling low levels of awareness. A main target audience for this review will be tradespeople involved in construction projects of less than £300,000.

Waste Management: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have received private finance initiative finance from his Department for waste schemes; how much has been paid over the last three years; and for what purposes. [205016]

Joan Ruddock: To date, 27 projects have been approved for private finance initiative (PFI) credits for sustainable waste management facilities. 21 have been proposed by individual authorities and six by partnerships of neighbouring authorities.

In most cases PFI credits are paid to authorities on an annuity basis, this means that credits are paid over the lifetime of the contract as a revenue payment to support the capital cost of the infrastructure being delivered.

Over the last three years, six of these projects have become eligible to claim credits, the amount they have claimed is:

Authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ Total*
Cornwall county council	0	1,266,785.84	3,378,095.57	4,644,881.41
Northumberland county council	0	0	3,009,129.62	3,009,129.62
Lancashire county council	0	0	6,558,455.34	6,558,455.34
Shropshire county council	0	0	1,459,009.28	1,459,009.28
Nottinghamshire county council	0	2,374,819.47	2,998,509.43	5,373,328.90
Central Berkshire district council[1]	0	870,630.54	2,981,611.44	3,852,241.98

[1] Payments made to Reading borough council

Other PFI projects that started claiming prior to April 2005 have also been in receipt of grant over the last three years. These figures are not available at this time.

The specific details on each project can be found on the DEFRA website.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

British Energy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with UBS on the sale of British Energy. [204289]

Malcolm Wicks: UBS has been engaged by BERR to advise on the process of new nuclear build in the UK, including acting as financial adviser on the Government's strategy in relation to its stake in British Energy. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the details of discussions.

Carbon Emissions: Buildings

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many projects the Low Carbon Buildings Programme funded in each year since 2006; and what the cost was of each project. [202998]

Malcolm Wicks: Since 2006, there have been 5,083 successfully completed installations funded through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP). The breakdown by year is shown as follows.

	Phase 1	*Phase 2*
2006	805	—
2007	2,938	387
2008	724	229

To provide a breakdown of these figures for each project could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Companies: USA

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has made to the US in respect of attempts by US law enforcement authorities to undertake retrospective prosecutions of UK businesses and individuals. [205376]

Mr. Thomas: Officials have made representations when suitable opportunities arise, and will continue to do so.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on the investigation by the European Commission into allegations of violation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) obligation by the US in seeking to enforce laws against businesses and individuals for past activity undertaken within valid WTO commitments. [205377]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are aware that the Commission have agreed to investigate the TBR complaint by the gambling industry. We welcome the Commission examining the issues raised by the complaint in more detail and await their conclusions with interest.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from United Kingdom *(a)* businesses, *(b)* business organisations and *(c)* legal bodies on the extraterritorial application of US law to UK businesses and individuals. [205380]

Mr. Thomas: We are aware of the concerns of industry with regard to US extra-territorial legislation, which are raised by representatives of industry and their legal advisors on a regular basis.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has made to the US administration in respect of the extraterritorial application of US law and the effect on UK businesses and individuals. [205381]

Mr. Thomas: The UK opposes the excessive use of extra-territorial legislation, and we regularly express our concerns when Washington embassy officials meet relevant US officials.

In addition, the UK has made two recent formal representations in a demarche to the State Department and in a letter from Sir Nigel Sheinwald to Secretary of State Rice concerning an Alien Tort Statute case being considered by the Supreme Court against companies dealing with South Africa in the apartheid era.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205189]

Mr. Thomas: Expenditure by the Department on translation services in 2007-08 was £321,666. Of this total, £56,613 was for translations into English and £265,053 for translation into other languages. Information is not held centrally in a format to provide a detailed breakdown by individual languages and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Individual directorates make their own arrangements for purchase of interpretation services. Information on expenditure for such services is not available centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Energy: EU Law

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions officials in his Department discussed the proposed labelling of heating systems in the energy-using products directive with representatives of the European Commission in each of the last two years. [205441]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR and DEFRA officials have been in regular contact with the Commission concerning the boilers and water heater proposals under the energy-using products directive. The latest engagement with the Commission includes:

EuP Consultation Forums 18 December 2007;

A bilateral meeting with the Commission on 31 January 2008;

EuP Consultation Forums 29 February 2008;

Conference call with Commission—24 April 2008; and

An informal meeting with Commission and other member states is planned for 22 May 2008.

In addition to the discussions with the Commission, BERR and DEFRA have continued to work closely with the relevant industry sectors and recently BERR hosted a full day workshop (chaired by DEFRA) with industry representatives in February.

Energy: Fees and Charges

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average price of *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity for UK households has been in each year since 1996. [205548]

Malcolm Wicks: Domestic retail prices for gas and electricity are published quarterly in section 2 of "Quarterly Energy Prices", the latest edition of which was published in March 2008 and is available online at http://www.berr.gov.uk.files/file45393.pdf. Table 2.2.1. on page 17 holds average electricity bills and table 2.3.1 on page 20 holds average gas bills. Both tables hold average bills back to 1990 and split by payment method.

Energy: Prices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the expenditure made by each energy company on its social tariff in each of the last five years. [205207]

Malcolm Wicks: Detailed reporting of energy company social tariffs has been led by OFGEM in recent years with BERR reporting at an aggregate level. In August and October 2007, OFGEM reported on the range of voluntary social initiatives each of the six largest energy suppliers provide to assist their vulnerable customers.

Etimated figures for combined social spending on all voluntary initiatives (including social tariffs, rebates, trust funds, partnerships etc. but excluding differences in company fuel price levels) in 2006 by company are displayed in the following table:

Company	*£ million Amount*
British Gas	19.0
EDF Energy	5.6
nPower	4.0
Powergen	6.7
Scottish Power	2.8
Scottish and Southern Energy	3.2

Further detail on the six largest energy suppliers' expenditure on their social initiatives is available here:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documentsl/CSRupdate_open_letter_23507.pdf

Accurate figures prior to 2006 at individual supplier level are not available. OFGEM published a report of supplier activity in June 2005 but no assessments were made at aggregate supplier level.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has received on the time taken for changes in the wholesale price of energy to be reflected in the prices paid by domestic customers; and if he will make a statement. [205208]

Malcolm Wicks: Timing of retail price increases or decreases are commercial decisions by the energy supply companies. The Government do not interfere in commercial pricing decisions in the energy supply markets, which are competitive markets.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with energy companies on the practice of differential charging for payments made electronically, by direct debit and by cash; and if he will make a statement. [205211]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem is currently conducting a probe into the energy markets, which includes looking at tariff differentials to make sure that the different payment methods are fair and justified. It released initial findings at the Fuel Poverty summit in April, and is already taking action to ensure that energy suppliers provide clear information on their websites to ensure that customers can make informed choices about the different payment methods. Ofgem will report on its probe in September and consider then whether further action is required.

In respect of customers using pre-payment meters, the Government announced in the Budget that it is prepared to legislate with a view to reducing the differential between pre-payment and other forms of payment should Ofgem's probe reveal that pre-payment customers are suffering any disadvantage. However, in the first instance the Government will look to Ofgem and the energy suppliers to provide the solution.

Farepak: Compensation

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans the Government has to provide compensation to those who lost savings as a result of the collapse of the Farepak Christmas savings club in 2006. [200373]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are entirely sympathetic to the plight of those who lost money in the Farepak collapse, and were strongly supportive of the commendable efforts of the Farepak Response Fund appeal, which raised £8 million from business and members of the public to help those affected.

For the future, the Government have taken steps to provide better protection and information for consumers. We have worked with the other hamper companies to put in place effective protection for customers' prepayments. The companies have responded by introducing new safeguards for consumers' money in the form of independently-controlled, ring-fenced trust accounts. These arrangements will be monitored by a new trade body, the Christmas Prepayments Association, under the terms of a new code of practice. We understand that the Association will be seeking approval of the code by the OFT under the terms of its consumer codes approval scheme. The Government have also given the Office of Fair Trading £1 million for a new awareness campaign so that consumers are better aware of their options for Christmas savings and are empowered to make decisions that are right for their own circumstances. However, the Government have no plans to provide any compensation in this case.

Fuel Poverty

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioner households and *(b)* other households which were living in fuel poverty in each year since 1996. [205547]

Malcolm Wicks: The most recent year for which numbers of households in fuel poverty are available is 2005. Various splits of the headline fuel poverty numbers for England are published in "Fuel Poverty 2005: detailed tables" available online at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42705.pdf.

The following table shows the number of pensioner households living in fuel poverty since 2003, the first year for which estimates for pensioners were made.

Estimated number of fuel poor households (1,000s)

	2003	2004	2005
Pensioners	634	604	794
Non-pensioners	588	632	735
Total	1,222	1,236	1,529

Figures for 2006 will be available later this year.

Fuels: Prices

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of increases in fuel prices on the cost of domestic heating. [204228]

Malcolm Wicks: Rising fuel costs put pressure on suppliers to raise prices to consumers. The average wholesale price for gas to be delivered in the next four quarters has doubled since early May 2007.

About 85 per cent. of English households use gas as their main heating fuel. Internal BERR analysis estimates that the wholesale cost of gas currently makes up about 70 to 75 per cent. of an average household gas bill. Therefore a permanent rise of 20 per cent. (for instance) in wholesale gas costs could be expected to result in an average increase of about 15 per cent. in charges to the consumer.

Rises in global fossil fuel costs will also impact households using heating oil, or electric heating.

Actual charges to consumers will vary depending on the purchasing and pricing strategies of an individual supplier over time.

Gambling: Internet

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has made to the US administration in respect of its decision to withdraw from a World Trade Organisation commitment to provide access to the US online gambling market to non-US companies. [205375]

Mr. Thomas: The UK remained in close contact with the US Administration, the European Commission, and UK gambling interests throughout the negotiation of an agreed compensation package with the US.

A final compensation package was agreed, between the EC and the US, in December 2007.

Heating: Fuel Oil

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households that use heating oil as the main means of heating their homes in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each nation and region of the UK. [200269]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of households that use heating oil as the main means of heating their homes in (a) the UK and (b) each nation and region of the UK (200269).

Estimates for this response are based on data collected from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the United Kingdom. The table below shows the estimated number of households who use heating oil for their central heating. Due to the small sample size for individual regions, an average for the years 2003/04 to 2005/06 has been provided to give reliable estimates of the use of heating oil in each nation and region of the United Kingdom.

Average number of households using heating oil for central heating—United Kingdom, 2003-04 to 2005-06

Thousands

Region[1]	Heating oil only	Solid fuel and heating oil	Total[2]
North East	21	0	21
North West and Merseyside	58	2	61
Yorkshire and The Humber	39	4	43
East Midlands	78	3	81
West Midlands	49	1	50
Eastern	199	4	203
London	12	1	13
South East	139	2	141
South West	187	11	198
England	781	29	810
Wales	90	8	97
Scotland	111	2	113
Northern Ireland	483	4	487
United Kingdom	1,465	43	1,508

[1] Government office region.
[2] Figures may not add due to rounding.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Innovation in Services Project

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to publish the Innovation in Services project report. [204291]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, expects to publish the Innovation in Services report soon. Interim findings from the project's analysis of innovation in and across service sectors are currently being reviewed and the report is being prepared.

Insurance: Elderly

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with the insurance industry on provision of *(a)* insurance and *(b)* travel insurance to older people; whether he provides

guidance to the industry on the subject; and what recent representations he has received on the subject. [204908]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The Government meet regularly with representatives from the insurance industry. The Government published the consultation paper "A Framework for Fairness: Proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain" in June 2007 which looked at the case for extending the prohibition of age discrimination to the provision of goods, facilities and services, except where it can be objectively justified. The Government are currently considering responses to that consultation.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps he has taken to increase take up of grants provided by the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and if he will make a statement. [202954]

Malcolm Wicks: The following steps have been taken to encourage increased uptake of grants provided under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

The household stream of the programme has been extended to June 2010 for new applications or as long as funds are available, whichever is sooner. The extension to June 2010 gives business longer term certainty and is an excellent opportunity to encourage uptake in microgeneration technologies along with changes in planning requirements, which came into effect on 6 April 2008.

The Government are working with the Energy Saving Trust to promote the Low Carbon Buildings Programme household funding stream, raising awareness of the funds that remain available to successful applicants. To date, we have used both their advice network and market segmentation models to target those that are most likely to install microgeneration technologies and apply for grants.

Further details are available at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

The level of grant available in phase 2 has been increased to 50 per cent. for all technologies supported through the programme. We believe that raising the grant caps to 50 per cent. across all technologies will increase interest in the grants programme, although we will also be implementing a nationwide awareness raising campaign. We are working with Building Research Establishment, the programme manager for phase 2 of the LCBP, to deliver a series of regional events and a positive marketing programme to promote the programme to eligible organisations.

Further details are available at:

www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken since the re-launch of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to increase grant takeup by private householders; and if he will make a statement. [202961]

Malcolm Wicks: The household stream of the programme has been extended to June 2010 for new applications or as long as funds are available, whichever is sooner. The extension to June 2010 gives business longer term certainty and is an excellent opportunity to encourage uptake in microgeneration technologies along with changes in planning requirements, which came into effect on 6 April 2008. Over the past month we have seen an increase in take up. In April we saw £313,374.40 committed to 293 householders.

The Government are continuing to work with the Energy Saving Trust to promote the Low Carbon Buildings Programme household funding stream, raising awareness of the funds that remain available to successful applicants. To date, we have used both their advice network and market segmentation models to target those that are most likely to install microgeneration technologies and apply for grants, and will be looking to continue with this approach going forward.

Further details are available at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much in grant funding under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme has been provided in each region. [202962]

Malcolm Wicks: Information on grant funding per region can be found on the Low Carbon Buildings Programme website at:

http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/info/stats/

and

http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/reportsummary.jsp

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on administering the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [200271]

Malcolm Wicks: The amount spent on administering the Low Carbon Buildings Programme between April 2006 and March 2008 is shown in the following table:

	Amount (£)
2006-07	2,037,405
2007-08	453,831

Natural Gas

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer from the Secretary of State for Scotland of 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2042W, on gas production, when the joint Government/industry taskforce *(a)* last met and *(b)* will next meet. [204478]

Malcolm Wicks: The West of Shetland Taskforce Steering Group, which I chair, last met on 21 February 2008 and expects to meet again in the next few months.

A specific meeting date has not yet been set as timing is dependent on further technical work being carried out by the taskforce workgroup to determine the optimal development and new gas infrastructure to unlock the potential of this region.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Public Appointments

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what communications he has received from the Chief Executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on his future employment. [205251]

Malcolm Wicks: Dr. Roxburgh has been in touch with the Department concerning the speculation in *The Observer* newspaper about his future at the NDA. His concern, which we share, is that this speculation does not affect the work of the NDA and the completion of the Sellafield competition.

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made by HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate in recruiting inspectors to undertake the generic design assessment of proposed new nuclear reactors; what arrangements exist to facilitate visa and security vetting of foreign candidates for these posts; and whether any difficulties relating to *(a)* visas and *(b)* vetting have been encountered during the recruitment process to date. [205231]

Malcolm Wicks: NII is making progress in recruiting new staff. This will allow it to transfer experienced inspectors into the teams undertaking the generic design assessments.

The first recruitment drive since the increase in salaries of NII inspectors was agreed with HM Treasury in late 2007, ended in February with about 160 job applications. Interviews have now been held and a number of offers of employment have been made. It is too soon to say how many new recruits will result from this campaign.

A second recruitment drive was launched on 11 April 2008.

Whether an applicant may require a visa to attend an interview for a job in the UK is unconnected with the specific job application and is a matter for decision by the UK Border Agency, or ultimately the Home Office. Only when a candidate has received a job offer are they subjected to vetting procedures appropriate for UK public bodies. Prospective NII inspectors will normally be required to obtain national security vetting clearance to the security check level and no difficulties have been experienced to date in the current recruitment campaign.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when he expects the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to announce the successful bidder for the contract to manage nuclear waste at Sellafield; [205541]

(2) whether the decision of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on the preferred bidder to clean up the nuclear waste at Sellafield requires Government approval. [205542]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 May 2008]:* The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is currently running a competition to select a new parent body organisation (PBO) for the Sellafield Site Licence Company, which through ownership will enhance Site Licence Company performance.

The announcement of a preferred bidder for the Sellafield PBO Competition is scheduled to take place in July 2008. Following the announcement of the preferred bidder, the NDA expects to complete contract finalisation over the summer period and plans to announce the contract award in October 2008. The decision will require Government approval.

Solar Power

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of solar panels installed on *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties in each of the last 10 years. [202372]

Malcolm Wicks: We commissioned a report on the potential for microgeneration in 2005, estimating that there were approximately 82,000 microgeneration installations in the UK. There are now estimated to be about 100,000 systems. We are not able to break this figure down by technology. However, since 2002 we have provided funding for 11,278 solar installations through our grant programmes, with the details shown in the following table.

Grant programme	*Period*	*Technology*	*Number installed*
Solar PV Major Demonstration	2002-07	Solar photovoltaic	1,829
Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1	2006 to present	Solar photovoltaic	727
Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2	2006 to present	Solar photovoltaic	127
Total			2,683
Clear Skies	2003-07	Solar thermal	5,799
Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1	2006 to present	Solar thermal	2,774
Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2	2006 to present	Solar thermal	22
Total			8,595

We have commissioned further research to provide up to date estimates, and this will be published in June 2008.

Supermarkets: Prices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has made a recent assessment of whether supermarkets have engaged in price fixing of *(a)* cigarettes and *(b)* milk. [205209]

Mr. Thomas: Allegations of price fixing is an infringement under the 1998 Competition Act and is a matter for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

(a) Tobacco and Tobacco products

The OFT issued a statement of objections on 25 April alleging that certain tobacco manufacturers and retailers and eleven retailers have engaged in unlawful practices in relation to retail prices for tobacco products in the UK.

The statement of objections sets out the OFT's proposed findings against tobacco manufacturers Imperial Tobacco and Gallaher and eleven retailers-Asda, the Co-operative Group, First Quench, Morrisons, Safeway, Sainsbury, Shell, Somerfield, T&S Stores, Tesco and TM Retail. The OFT's investigation is currently ongoing.

(b) Milk and Dairy Products

The OFT issued a statement of objections on 20 September 2007, which found provisional evidence of collusion between certain large supermarkets (Asda, Morrisons, Safeway, Sainsbury's and Tesco) and dairy processors (Aria, Dairy Crest, Lactalis McLelland, The Cheese Company and Wiseman) on the retail prices of some dairy products. Some of these parties have now admitted involvement in anticompetitive practices and have agreed to pay individual penalties which combine to a maximum of over £116 million. The OFT are continuing their case against the remaining parties.

Tidal Power: River Severn

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the criteria are for the selection of companies undertaking feasibility studies for the Severn Tidal Power project. [204522]

Malcolm Wicks: To date, two major contracts have been awarded under the Severn Tidal Power feasibility study.

These are firstly to provide a managed service for a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of proposals for tidal power development in the Severn estuary, and secondly to provide advice on finance and ownership issues in relation to delivering a project to generate tidal power from the Severn estuary. The contracts were awarded following a competitive tender process using Office for Government Commerce framework agreements.

Tenders for the SEA contract were assessed according to the value for money offered which was determined according to:

(a) technical merit i.e. demonstration that the requirements of the service are fully understood and that the approach offered by the supplier would meet the requirements;

(b) relevant experience i.e. demonstration that the supplier has undertaken such work successfully in the previous five years and that the supplier has a strong team with the required technical, financial and management expertise and capabilities; and

(c) overall price.

The panel also paid particular attention to the:

quality of management of the organisation;

degree of innovation, and

independence of the contractor and ensuring that there is no conflict of interest.

Tenders for the contract to provide advice on finance and ownership issues were assessed according to:

(a) the level of understanding of the issues around tidal power development, UK electricity markets, corporate and public sector finance, and major infrastructure projects investment—in particular the experience and ability to advise on and create novel structures;

(b) the quality of the staff involved and their previous relevant experience;

(c) the quality of management of the organisation and its track record in having carried out similar work;

(d) innovative ideas, methodologies or activities that help to maximise the prospects for achieving the aims and objectives of the study efficiently and effectively;

(e) the independence of the contractor and ensuring that there is no conflict of interest; and

(f) cost and value for money.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Skills Pledge: Copeland

9. **Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many employers in Copeland have made the skills pledge. [205668]

Mr. Lammy: By March 2008, more than 2,500 employers in England had made the skills pledge, covering more than 3.7 million employees. A number of those employers employ people in the Copeland area, including Tesco, Ford Motor Company, Superdrug and BP. None of the employers who have made the pledge to date have registered their main address as being in the Copeland area; I would welcome the opportunity to work with the hon. Member for Copeland to encourage employers in his constituency to make the pledge.

Young People not in Education, Employment or Training

10. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the number of young people aged 16 or over not in education, employment or training. [205669]

Mr. Denham: In the UK, the proportion of 18 to 25-year-olds not engaged in full-time education or employment is down from 19.4. per cent. in 1997 to 18.1 per cent. today. There are 707,000 in England—that's 15 per cent. Of these, 243,000 are looking after a family or home. 85,000 own their own home outright, or are buying their own home. Those on out of work

benefits are already subject to conditionality but, as we have already announced, new measures will be taken to ensure that the unemployed, and those on sickness benefits will be given extra help to find work.

18. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the recent trends in the number of young people aged 16 and over not in education, employment or training. [205677]

Mr. Lammy: The responsibility for 16 to 17-year-olds is a matter for the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and is a shared responsibility for 18-year-olds. The Government are tackling vigorously the important issue of young people not in education, employment or training.

The UK has a dynamic and flexible labour market with one of the highest employment rates in the G7. Youth unemployment has fallen since 1997 and the proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds not engaged in full-time education or employment is down to 18.1 per cent. in the three months ending March 2008 from 19.4 per cent. in 1997. We have seen an increase of 503,000 in the number of 18 to 24-year-olds in full-time education, a rise from 22.7 per cent. to 28.6 per cent.

Volunteers: Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush

11. **Mr. Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government are taking to encourage the training and development of volunteers in Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush. [205670]

Mr. Lammy: Since January this year, voluntary sector organisations have been able to access support through Train to Gain to upskill the volunteers working for them. Government investment in skills through Train to Gain will rise to over £1 billion by 2010-11. In addition, the Learning and Skills Council supports programmes for volunteers like the Torch Project at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

Foreign Students

12. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to attract more foreign students to the UK. [205671]

Bill Rammell: The second phase of the Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education aims to secure and sustain the UK's position as a leader in international education. We are working with the British Council and a range of partners in the higher education and further education sectors to increase the number of international students studying in the UK and to support UK universities and colleges in developing collaborative partnerships with institutions overseas.

Further Education Colleges

13. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on levels of capital funding for further education colleges. [205672]

Mr. Denham: £2.4 billion of capital investment has been made in the further education sector, including investment for information and learning technology (ILT) in the last 10 years, compared to ear marked expenditure of zero pounds in 1997.

A record further £2.3 billion will be invested over the next three years—enabling us to continue the 'once in a generation' opportunity we have to build world-class further education facilities so the sector can deliver world-class skills.

22. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the total capital expenditure was in further education colleges in England in 1997 and 2007; and what plans he has for future expenditure. [205682]

Bill Rammell: The total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England in the financial year 1997-98 was nil. In 2007-08, the LSC forecast outturn indicates that the total capital investment—including Information and Learning Technology—was £560 million.

In total across that period, this Government have invested a massive £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

24. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, what recent assessment he has made of the performance of further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [205684]

Bill Rammell: College success rates and inspection grades show strong improvement over recent years. With the LSC, Ofsted and others, we have now developed a wider suite of indicators to identify how the system is performing. These include learner and employer satisfaction rates, destination outcomes, attainment and financial performance measures. Over the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 period, we are developing the Framework for Excellence which will assess individual providers' performance against existing measures as well as these indicators.

Scientific Research

14. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the role of the research councils in promoting scientific research in the public sector. [205673]

Ian Pearson: The research councils are responsible for funding research in the higher education sector and in their own institutes. The councils are encouraged, wherever relevant, to work closely with other public sector bodies in delivering their research, but it is the responsibility of those other public bodies to determine their priorities and activities in research.

Postgraduate Students: Support

15. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of support available to postgraduate students who attended schools in areas of deprivation. [205674]

Bill Rammell: We have not made any specific assessment. However, research shows that people from disadvantaged areas who achieve first degrees are no less likely to stay on for postgraduate study.

The Government's student support is generally targeted at undergraduates, to widen access and provide the opportunity to study for a first degree. Students of the Post Graduate Certificate in Education are though eligible for means-tested support.

The research councils offer postgraduate awards; and career development loans are also available.

Teaching Software

16. **Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the games industry on software packages for the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in colleges and universities. [205675]

Ian Pearson: The UK Government keep in regular contact with the UK games industry, however no specific meetings or discussions have been held between Ministers and the games industry on software packages for the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in colleges and universities.

Construction Skills

17. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he next expects to meet representatives of further education colleges to discuss skills in the construction sector. [205676]

Bill Rammell: Ministerial colleagues and I regularly meet representatives of further education colleges, to discuss skills in all sectors, including construction. These meetings will continue in the future as will meetings with representatives from the construction industry.

Undergraduate Courses: Access

19. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government are taking to improve access to undergraduate courses for those from deprived backgrounds; and if he will make a statement. [205679]

Mr. Denham: This Government are committed to ensuring that talented people from all backgrounds are able and willing to develop their potential through higher education. We are putting £48 million per year into the Aimhigher programme, have introduced an improved student support package, and launched a prospectus for university links with academies and trusts. In addition, the Aimhigher Associates scheme will see around 5,500 university students providing long-term individual support to more than 21,000 pupils in schools and colleges.

New University: Somerset

20. **Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what consideration he has given to the establishment of a new university in Somerset. [205680]

Mr. Denham: We have responded to the clear demand for local university provision by giving the chance for 20 towns or regions to develop new university centres or campuses by 2014. I am delighted by the interest and enthusiasm which this new "University Challenge" has generated. Any specific proposal in Somerset would of course be considered on its merits, and such proposals will be assessed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Low-skilled adults

21. **Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to improve advice and support for adults who are low-skilled. [205681]

Mr. Lammy: We are creating an adult advancement and careers service, to be fully operational from 2010-11, to provide universal, high quality information and advice on careers and skills. With targeted guidance for the low skilled and those who need it most and help that recognises the range of barriers to getting on in learning and work. There will be additional funding of at least £50 million from 2010-11 to support the service.

Apprenticeships

23. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to raise the quality of apprenticeships. [205683]

Mr. Lammy: Our strategy to develop and expand apprenticeships to meet the nation's skills needs is outlined in 'World-class Apprenticeships'. We are committed to build an apprenticeship system that meets the needs of employers and which offers all suitably qualified young people a place on an apprenticeship if they wish. To this end we will be publishing a draft Apprenticeship Bill in July which will set out plans to further improve quality.

Adult Education: Grants

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department plans to spend on adult learner grants for adults aged 25 years and over completing their first level three qualification in each of the next three years. [205540]

Bill Rammell: The Adult Learning Grant (ALG) has been available throughout England since September 2007 and during its pilot phase (from 2003) showed that it was successful at helping more individuals raise their skill levels through completing their training and gaining a qualification. It is intended to help low skilled individuals in work on low incomes achieve their first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 qualification. The grant offers up to £30 per week.

The Department has a budget of £32 million for ALG for each of the next three financial years (2008-09, 09-10 and 10-11), which will be allocated in line with applications from adults supported by ongoing marketing of the scheme. Since it began in 2003-04, over 43,000 learners have been helped by ALG. Evaluation of pilots has shown that 80 per cent.

of ALG funded learners study for a Level 3 qualification of which around 12 per cent. of learners were aged 25 and over.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205181]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has made payments for translation services to the value of £11,094.25 during the financial year 2007-08. To investigate as to whether the cost was for actual translation and interpretation work rather than the additional publishing costs and to breakdown the total cost into language would be at disproportionate cost.

Further Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of first-time Level 3 adult further education students who are aged between 19 and 25 years. [205531]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not available. However, we do know that 40 per cent. of full level 3 adult learners in Further Education (excluding work based learning and train to gain) were aged 19-25.

Further Education: Capital Investment

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding for capital expenditure will be available to further education colleges during the current spending review period. [205678]

Bill Rammell: This Government will be investing a record £2.3 billion in the modernisation and renewal of the further education estate during the current CSR period—compared to ear-marked expenditure of zero pounds in 1997.

This builds on the £2.4 billion invested in the previous 10 years and will enable us to continue the 'once in a generation' opportunity we have to build world-class further education facilities so the sector can deliver world-class skills.

GCE A-Level

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students gained *(a)* an A level and *(b)* an AS level in (i) accounting, (ii) art and design, (iii) business studies, (iv) communication studies, (v) dance, (vi) design and technology, (vii) drama/theatre studies, (viii) film studies, (ix) health and social care, (x) home economics, (xi) information and communication technology, (xii) leisure studies, (xiii) media studies, (xiv) music technology, (xv) performance studies, (xvi) performing arts, (xvii) photography, (xviii) physical education, (xix) sports studies and (xx) travel and tourism in each of the last five years. [205772]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information has been placed in the House Library.

Office of Fair Trading: Complaints

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints he has received on the Office of Fair Trading in relation to its work on the home maintenance, repairs and improvements sector. [203922]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

In the last year for which figures are available (2007) the Office of Fair Trading (including Consumer Direct) received 73,443 such complaints about home maintenance, repairs and improvements.

Research Councils: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken to safeguard research council budgets against the effects of international currency fluctuations; and if he will make a statement. [204996]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the supplementary evidence provided in Memorandum 38 to the Select Committee on Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills following the oral evidence session on 20 February 2008, and subsequently published by the Committee.

Technology: Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent progress has been made in developing vocational training in the fields of emerging technologies. [205325]

Bill Rammell: The FE reform programme which we have implemented since the FE White Paper 'Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances published in March 2006' is transforming the Post 16 vocational system to one which is demand led. This will enable new and emerging industries to develop the skilled workforce they will need. We have instituted a process of vocational reform inviting sector skills councils, on behalf of employers, to undertake sector skills reviews to identify key vocational qualifications for the future of their sectors. World-class apprenticeships commit us to boost the range of apprenticeships and we would expect the new National Apprenticeship Service to identify the skills needs of business involved with emerging technologies and to work with sector skills bodies to develop appropriate frameworks. Train to Gain enables employers to support the development of the workforce. Foundation Degrees Forward, an independent body funded by HEFCE, supports the development and validation of high quality Foundation Degrees. They support employer engagement across higher education programmes generally and in relation to Foundation degrees specifically. To support FE reforms the Quality Improvement Agency have recently refocused the National Teaching and Learning Change Programme enabling it to respond to local and regional needs more

flexibly. This will enable teachers and lecturers to identify new teaching subjects and develop the skills learners' needs.

In addition the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Technology Strategy Board has issued a call to fund up to two new Innovation and Knowledge Centres (IKCs), each of up to £9.45 million support over five years. IKCs will promote the early commercialisation of world class research, by combining within a single integrated centre the best research with the best business development, market analysis and commercialisation skills and partnerships to accelerate its exploitation. For each centre provision has been made to support postgraduate training.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcome of the NATO Bucharest Summit on UK policy on Afghanistan. [205053]

Meg Munn: The Bucharest summit was an important success for Afghanistan. Attendance of all the key players demonstrated a truly international and comprehensive approach in working towards our common goals in Afghanistan. At the summit, the UK, along with our allies and partners, reaffirmed our common determination to help the people and the elected government of Afghanistan.

The key areas of UK policy in Afghanistan, laid out by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in his 12 December 2007 statement to the House, were greater Afghan ownership, localisation and reconstruction. These are fully reflected in the Strategic Vision declaration made by contributing nations to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan at the Bucharest summit, which sets out clearly ISAF's aims and objectives for Afghanistan. We also welcomed the increased troop contributions announced at Bucharest which addressed the issue of improving burden sharing, also a key priority for my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Colombia: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training on *(a)* human rights and *(b)* other issues the Government has provided to the High Mountain Battalion in Colombia in the last five years. [205028]

Meg Munn: UK assistance to Colombia focuses on counter-narcotics, human rights and international humanitarian law, and humanitarian de-mining. We do not disclose any aspect of our counter-narcotics assistance, and the parliamentary ombudsman has upheld this decision, as to do so would endanger the lives of those involved in this vital and dangerous work. However all assistance has human rights at its foundation, and is carefully monitored to ensure its integrity.

The Ministry of Defence do not provide training to whole units such as the "High Mountain Battalions", though some of their officers and soldiers may well have received human rights and de-mining training from either UK staff, or from Colombian staff who have received UK human rights training.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department have been disciplined or dismissed for *(a)* breaches of data protection requirements and *(b)* inappropriate use of personal and sensitive data in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [205234]

Meg Munn: No officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been disciplined or dismissed for either breaches of data protection requirements or inappropriate use of personal and sensitive data in the last three years.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* responsibilities are and *(b)* grade is of his Department's new head of digital engagement. [204821]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) new head of digital engagement was appointed in March 2008. Their responsibilities are:

to develop and deliver a top-level FCO internet strategy through which the FCO will use its new web platform, and the web more broadly, to deliver foreign policy outcomes; and

to commission and oversee the work of the FCO's e-media team.

The head of digital engagement is graded FCO D7 (home civil service grade 6).

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the budget for his Department's new website will be spent on the design of embassy and high commission websites. [204822]

David Miliband: Most of the templates and functionality of the embassy and high commission websites are shared with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) main site to maximise efficiencies across the sites. It is therefore not possible to extract the proportion of resources spent on the embassy and high commission websites—they are all part of the same FCO web platform. My answer to PQ 204823 sets out the total costs.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will provide a detailed breakdown of the budget for his Department's new departmental website. [204823]

David Miliband: The recent upgrade of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) corporate website is part of a wider project to deliver a new web platform and improved web presence for the FCO over five years.

The work will provide a single technical platform for all the FCO websites (including the main FCO website, Arabic and Urdu versions of the FCO website, UKvisas website, the FCO Freedom of Information website, and 229 embassy, high commission and special mission sites in multiple languages) as well as new designs, content, functionality and a new hub and spoke model for delivering business support.

The project will complete in September 2008, by which time all of the FCO posts websites will have joined the new platform and will operate under the central domain fco.gov.uk.

The initial cost of £9.7 million for the web platform was set out in the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield Heeley (Meg Munn) on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 398W. The project is on target to cost £19.2 million over five years. This includes running costs, for example hosting and support, and some staff salaries. The cost of the project to date is £9.2 million which breaks down as follows:

consultancy (procurement, legal and business change advice): £1.631 million;

project management and support: £1.065 million;

software, development and implementation (including design and roll-out): £6.115 million; and

other (including training costs): £0.389 million.

The web is vital for the delivery of the FCO's departmental strategic objectives. More people, in the UK and overseas, have contact with the FCO through the web than through any other channel. The FCO is committed to using the web to deliver its policy goals as well as key services such as travel advice and visa information.

The project has followed the Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review process and is delivering on time and to budget.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a review was undertaken before the decision to approve funding for his Department's new website. [204899]

David Miliband: A comprehensive review of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) online activity was undertaken during the summer of 2005 by digital agency Rufas Leonard. This produced a web strategy which set the direction for the development of the FCO's web presence for the next five to seven years. This strategy underpinned the business case for the development of the FCO's new websites which was approved by the FCO's Investment Committee in January 2006. The project to redevelop the new websites has also been subject to the Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review Process and was rated green at both Gateway 3 and 4.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2022W, on departmental manpower, how many of the employees under 18 years of age are receiving at least one day's training per week. [204935]

Meg Munn: Two of these employees are on three year engineering apprenticeships and have been receiving the equivalent of one day's training per week. The three year apprenticeship is considered to be all training, whether on-the-job working in various sections or at college. The third employee is on a fixed term contract and not on an apprentice scheme.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) under what type of tenure the Government owns 1 Carlton Gardens; [205406]

(2) what plans he has for the use of 1 Carlton Gardens in the next three years. [205408]

Meg Munn: We are currently in negotiation with The Crown Estate about the future of the lease on 1 Carlton Gardens.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department since 1997. [204767]

Meg Munn: 315 Statutory Instruments have been made on the part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1 January 1997 to the present day.

The information on how many statutory instruments have been revoked on the part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1 January 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Presidency

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent *(a)* representations he has made to and *(b)* discussions he has had with (i) other EU member states and (ii) EU institutions on potential candidates for the proposed post of President of the European Council; and if he will make a statement. [204841]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with all of our EU partners and with the EU institutions on a variety of issues.

As set out in my letters of 22 April to the Chairs of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee and Lords EU Select Committee, technical level discussions to prepare for implementation have begun. While it is only sensible to ensure that the EU is ready to implement the treaty—if all countries have ratified—we have made it clear to and agreed with our EU partners that no final decisions can be taken until ratification is confirmed.

Discussions on the identity of the new full-time President of the European Council will take place at the appropriate time. This decision and others will, of course, depend on ratification of the treaty by all 27 member states.

France: State Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of the Prime Minister's joint press conference with the President of France held at the Emirates stadium on 27 March. [204928]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Costs specifically attributable to holding the joint press conference amounted to £8,561.16. There were additional costs associated with the hosting of the UK-France Summit.

Gaza: Fuels

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the President of the Palestinian Authority about the reported blocking of fuel supplies to hospitals and clinics in the Gaza Strip by Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [205060]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Palestinian President Abbas on 18 December 2007. Our Consulate General in Jerusalem also maintains regular dialogue, with him and his office, about the humanitarian situation. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development met Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad when he visited this month and discussed Gaza among other issues. The UK supports all efforts to resume the normal operation of the Gaza crossing.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with Arab governments about the reported blocking of fuel supplies to hospitals and clinics in the Gaza Strip by Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [205061]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary co-hosted high level meetings, on 2 May in London, which involved discussions with Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia as well as Foreign Ministers from outside the region. During the meetings the humanitarian effect of fuel shortages was discussed. Our embassies around the region also discuss these issues frequently with their host governments. The UK supports efforts to resume the normal operations of the Gaza crossing.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there are plans to publish the refreshed 6 June 2006 E3+3 proposals on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [204820]

David Miliband: We will be passing the refreshed E3+3 offer to the Iranian Government in confidence. We hope that they will study its contents carefully and respond in a timely manner. We have no plans to publish it before the Iranian Government has seen it.

Iraq: Administration of Justice

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to seek to extend extra-territorial jurisdiction to allow the British prosecuting authorities to prosecute alleged offences by contractors working for HM Government in Iraq. [205427]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 14 May 2008]:* Future policy options are under review. We believe that our current working relationships, and contracts with our contractors in Iraq, ensure that any cases of alleged crime or misconduct would be brought to our attention promptly, so that we could investigate. Where such misconduct is substantiated our procurement guidelines specify that we can terminate the contract. We expect the highest professional standards of those holding Government contracts.

On the broader issue of the regulation of the overseas operations of private military and security companies, registered in or operating from the UK, the then Foreign Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Jack Straw), requested a review by officials of the options. The review was completed in 2005 and considered ways forward including self-regulation, national regulation—based on export controls—and/or company licensing systems. We have also considered international regulation on the basis of common international values and norms. However, the review and subsequent analysis has also highlighted difficulties with regard to implementation or enforcement, with respect to each of the options. We have also considered the complex legal matter of extra-territorial jurisdiction. These issues have since been the subject of extensive Ministerial correspondence and official consultation. If it is decided that regulation is appropriate, the Government will put the proposals to public consultation.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 24th May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1862W, on Iraq, what reports he has received since May 2006 on the activities of the Facilities Protection Service; and if he will make a statement. [201950]

Meg Munn: The Facilities Protection Service is an Iraqi internal security organisation, outside the remit of the UK forces operating in Iraq. The Iraqi Council of Ministers has recently passed a draft law, to the Council of Representatives, aimed at reforming the Facilities Protection Service and bringing all branches under the control of the Ministry of the Interior.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the safety and security of Iraqi citizens in Iraq. [205297]

Meg Munn: UK forces have consistently taken firm action against rogue militias and criminal elements who seek to undermine or oppose progress in Iraq. We have so far trained over 20,000 army personnel and over 22,000 police officers. In addition, we put significant time and resources into improving the safety and security

of Iraqi citizens and are now involved in training all companies of the Iraqi Army 14 Division.

The Government funded civilian project teams continue to mentor and develop key leaders in the Iraqi Police Service and Ministry of Interior. Our objective is to allow these leaders to develop the capacity to take control of their own security.

The UK is also working with the Government of Iraq in developing human rights legislation, including the setting up of a National Human Rights Commission. We continue to lobby the Government of Iraq at the highest level on the treatment of those in Iraqi detention to ensure that the rights of Iraqi citizens are upheld.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the political situation in Kenya and *(b)* progress in implementing the National Accord and Reconciliation Act 2008 in that country; and if he will make a statement. [204831]

Meg Munn: The UK, together with Kenya's other international partners, has welcomed the appointment, by President Kibaki on 17 April, of a Grand Coalition Government with Mr. Raila Odinga as the country's Prime Minister. This is an important step in implementing the National Accord and Reconciliation Act that came into force on 20 March. The UK has offered its strong support to the new Kenyan Government and looks forward to it making progress to achieve reconciliation and restore stability and prosperity through the full implementation of the programme of reforms set out under the National Accord agreed by Kenya's leaders on 28 February.

Maldives: Constitutions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of the Maldives on establishing effective parliamentary process for the completion of the new constitution. [204958]

Meg Munn: It is essential that the new Constitution, in the final stages of scrutiny in the Special Majlis (constitutional assembly), enjoys the support of all the people of the Maldives. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, told Maldivian President Gayoom of the need to keep the democratic reform process, of which the new Constitution is a cornerstone, on track in July 2007. He reiterated this to Dr. Mohamad Asim, the Maldivian High Commissioner in March 2008.

Maldives: Elections

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department will send *(a)* independent observers and *(b)* observers as part of an EU delegation to the Maldives, in advance of the elections expected in 2008. [204959]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Kim Howells) gave to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring), on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1704W.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Maldives government on the distribution of media resources between political parties in advance of expected elections in 2008. [204960]

Meg Munn: We have made no specific representation on this issue. We are however working closely with the BBC, the Maldives Ministry of Information and the Maldives Media Association to promote media freedom and skills development including, objectivity and balance.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of the Maldives on establishing an independent election commission in advance of the expected elections in 2008. [204961]

Meg Munn: In a meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in April, the Maldivian Foreign Minister, Abdulla Shahid, stated that an Interim Election Commission would be created within 30 days of the ratification of the new Constitution. He underlined that the deliberations of the Special Majlis (Constitutional Assembly) were nearly complete. Foreign Minister Shahid told us that the Commission would be responsible for all elections-related matters, and that all registered political parties would be able to nominate Commissioners.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of the Maldives on charges against members of opposition parties in advance of expected elections in 2008. [204962]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Howells) gave to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) on 27 February, *Official Report*, column 1705W.

Free, fair and credible elections are a crucial element of democratic reform in the Maldives. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, emphasised this point to Dr. Mohamad Asim, the Maldivian high commissioner in March. He also pointed out that the freedom of politicians and political parties to campaign and debate freely was a cornerstone of democracy.

Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the Government put forward to the Preparatory Committee meeting for the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010, held recently in

Geneva; what responses were received from other national delegations at the preparatory meeting to those proposals; and if he will make a statement. [205230]

Meg Munn: The Government proposed initiatives to promote consensus around the Treaty's three pillars: non-proliferation; peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and disarmament. This included studies on the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's conference on peaceful uses of nuclear energy to be held later this year. The UK also co-sponsored a paper by the US on civil nuclear energy and an EU paper on nuclear weapons free zones. These proposals were well received. Further details on these proposals can be found at:

http://www.un.org/NPT2010/SecondSession/documents.html.

Polisario Front

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received from the Polisario Front. [204951]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received representations from consultants working on behalf of the Polisario. He reiterated the UK's concerns over the conflict in Western Sahara, and our hope that ongoing negotiations will achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self determination of the people of Western Sahara. In addition, officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have received Polisario representatives for discussions on Western Sahara.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many smoking shelters were built at each of his Department's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205042]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has erected one smoking shelter in its London Estate, situated in the external courtyard of the Old Admiralty Building in 2003.

Somalia: Ethiopia

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal advice he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* received on the death of civilian workers on projects funded by the UK in Somalia resulting from interaction between the governments of Somalia and Ethiopia and UK-supported activities. [204947]

Meg Munn: No legal advice has been commissioned or received on this subject.

The majority of UK funding for Somalia is channelled through the UN Development Programme and other UN agencies. Any civilian staff working for these projects do so under UN terms and conditions of employment and follow the security advice given by the UN Department for Safety and Security.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what political, diplomatic and military support *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU has provided to (i) Ethiopia in support of its role in Somalia, (ii) Ethiopia and (iii) Somalia in the last two years. [204948]

Meg Munn: Neither the UK nor the EU provide any political, diplomatic or military support for Ethiopia for its role in Somalia.

Both the UK and the EU maintain full diplomatic relations with Ethiopia. Neither the UK nor the EU provide any military support, but where suitable opportunities arise and we are satisfied that human rights concerns are being met, the UK remains interested in assisting Ethiopia to develop its internal security infrastructure.

Both the UK and the EU support the Transitional Federal Institutions of Somalia as established by the Transitional Federal Charter, including the Transitional Federal Government. The UK does not currently have formal diplomatic accreditation to Somalia, but we maintain a high level of contact with members of the Somali Government. Neither the UK nor the EU provide any military support to Somalia.

Somalia: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Ethiopia and the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia on their obligations to ensure that their armed forces comply with international humanitarian law; and if he will make a statement. [204829]

Meg Munn: We regularly raise the issue of compliance with international humanitarian law with both the Ethiopian Government and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, including at the highest level.

While Ethiopia's troops remain in Somalia, we urge them to use only appropriate force, adhere to international humanitarian law, respect human rights and to ensure that their forces should leave the country as soon as is practical without creating a security vacuum.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to monitor the human rights situation in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [204830]

Meg Munn: In March 2008 we fully supported the UN Human Rights Council in renewing the mandate of their international expert for Somalia.

Through the UN Security Council (UNSC), we have also asked the UN to produce a comprehensive plan, and to build capacity to monitor and report on the human rights situation in Somalia.

To be effective and have a sustainable impact, measures to combat human rights abuses should be part of a broader approach to peace-building. Effective state-building is the only way to address human rights in the long-term. The UK is in the forefront of

international efforts to re-build the Somali state through shaping UNSC policy and through our membership of the Contact Group for Somalia. We continually press for greater focus on human rights capacity in Somalia.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the capacity of the African Union force in Somalia to protect civilians caught up in the conflict; and if he will make a statement. [204827]

Meg Munn: The African Union (AU) force in Somalia has a mandate to carry out a limited number of specific tasks in Somalia. The force is mandated to deploy 8,000 troops. At the current force level of approximately 2,400 troops, the mission does not have sufficient capacity to carry out its full mandate.

Even so, the AU troops are doing what they can to aid the civilian population in Mogadishu, particularly in the areas of water provision and medical assistance. We are grateful to Uganda and Burundi for the efforts of their soldiers and their contribution to improving the situation in Somalia. We are working with the AU and international partners to increase the strength of the force.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he received of attacks on humanitarian aid workers along the Chadian border with Sudan in each of the last three months. [204836]

Meg Munn: With regret I confirm that Pascal Marlinge, an aid worker with Save the Children-UK, was shot and killed by armed men in eastern Chad on 1 May. Ramadan Djom, also of Save the Children-UK, was killed in the same region on 4 April. The border area between Chad and Sudan remains highly dangerous, with regular bandit activity throughout the region. The UK strongly condemns these senseless attacks on both individuals and organisations that are seeking to improve the welfare of those affected by regional conflict.

Uganda

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the re-population of Acholiland in northern Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [205018]

Meg Munn: The most recent report from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, states that of the 1.1 million people in Internally Displaced Persons camps in the Acholi region of Uganda at the end of 2005, 9 per cent. have moved back to their villages of origin, with a further 32 per cent. in satellite sites, in transition to returning home. We are encouraged by this report and will continue to monitor the situation in northern Uganda closely.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in executing International Criminal Court warrants for the arrest of the leadership of the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [205017]

Meg Munn: Joseph Kony and the other Lord's Resistance Army indictees have so far refused to surrender to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and reports suggest they are not currently in Uganda.

The UK strongly supports the ICC. We also continue to follow the Juba peace talks closely, and hope that this process will provide the framework for peace in northern Uganda. We believe that justice is an essential part of sustainable peace. It is vital that those responsible for the terrible crimes committed during the conflict in northern Uganda are held to account. Resolution of the conflict in Uganda must be compatible with the Rome Statute.

USA: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of the United States on *(a)* human rights and *(b)* use of torture. [204328]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office maintains an ongoing dialogue on a range of human rights and international legal issues with the US government, including on the use of torture. As a member of the EU, the UK is also engaged in the regular EU/US dialogue on human rights.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the status is of negotiations in Manhasset on the future of the Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [204952]

Meg Munn: UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1753, of 30 April 2007, called upon the parties to enter into negotiations under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith. The UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Peter van Walsum, has brought the parties together for four rounds of negotiations, held in June and August 2007 and January and March 2008. The UK fully supports these negotiations, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. We have encouraged the parties to maintain their commitment to the negotiation process. UNSCR 1813 called on parties to continue these negotiations in a spirit of realism and compromise, and we hope a fifth round will be held soon.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* France and *(b)* Spain on the future of the Western Sahara. [204953]

Meg Munn: The UK is a member of the Group of Friends of Western Sahara in the UN Security Council, along with France, Spain, the US and Russia. Consequently, the UK works closely with these two key European neighbours on the issue of Western Sahara in the UN.

Last month saw the UN Security Council adopt Resolution 1813, which extended the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara and called on the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary General. The UK, along with the others in the Group of Friends, worked hard in order to secure consensus in the Council.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to meet representatives of the Polisario Front to discuss the status of Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [205099]

Meg Munn: The Government maintain contact with representatives of the Polisario at official level, both in London and through our embassies overseas. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has met with consultants working on behalf of the Polisario, where he reiterated the UK's support for the UN Secretary-General and his personal envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, and for the negotiation process currently under way under the auspices of the UN.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring academies into the purview of local schools committees. [204970]

Jim Knight: The Government encourage academies to work closely with local schools and their communities. However, the first priorities of an academy must be to concentrate on tackling the challenges they face in terms of performance and behaviour, and on meeting the needs of their pupils.

Many academies sit on their local school forums, but like other maintained schools are not compelled to do so; it is for the governing body of the school in each case to decide. Academy principals are also often part of their local secondary head groups—and in some cases have been the chair.

Academy Governing Bodies are bound by law to act in the best interest of the academy, its pupils and local community. They must set out their proposals for working with other schools and the wider community in their annual development plan.

All new academies will be required to be part of their local behaviour partnerships, and all open academies are already members or have indicated a willingness to work with their local behaviour partnerships.

Academies: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 813W, on academies: admissions, if he will list each of the academies which fall in each category of selection; and if he will make a statement. [205314]

Jim Knight: In the case of over subscription:

The following academies can exercise selection by aptitude in their specialism:

The Business Academy, Bexley; The City Academy, Bristol; Capital City Academy, Brent; The Academy at Peckham, Southwark; City of London Academy, Southwark; Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham; Dixons City Academy, Bradford; Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough; Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy, Lewisham; Haberdashers' Knights Academy, Lewisham; Harefield Academy, Hillingdon; The John Madejski Academy, Reading; Ashcroft Technology Academy, Wandsworth; William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester; The Belvedere Academy, Liverpool; Harris City Academy, Crystal Palace, Croydon; John Cabot Academy, South Gloucestershire

The following Academies can exercise banding in line with ability range of applicants:

The Business Academy, Bexley; The Walsall City Academy, Walsall; Capital City Academy, Brent; The Academy at Peckham, Southwark; City of London Academy, Southwark; The West London Academy, Baling; Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney; Dixons City Academy, Bradford; Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough;

Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy, Lewisham; Haberdashers' Knights Academy, Lewisham; Sandwell Academy, Sandwell; The Petchey Academy, Hackney; The Harris Bermondsey Academy, Southwark; David Young Community Academy, Leeds; Landau Forte College, Derby; North Liverpool City Academy, Liverpool; Harris Girls Academy East Dulwich, Southwark; Ashcroft Technology Academy, Wandsworth; William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester; The Belvedere Academy, Liverpool; The Bridge Academy, Hackney; Leigh Technology Academy, Kent; The Thomas Deacon Academy, Peterborough; Harris City Academy, Crystal Palace, Croydon; Bacon's, A Church of England Sponsored Academy, Southwark.

And, the following Academies can exercise banding in line with ability range of pupils nationally:

Harris Academy Merton, Merton; The Harris Academy South Norwood, Croydon; John Cabot Academy, South Gloucestershire.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether new academies will be allowed to select by banding with reference to the national ability range; and if he will make a statement. [205315]

Jim Knight: Academies must abide by the School Admissions Code, which allows for the banding of applicants with reference to (i) the ability of applicants for the school, (ii) the range of ability of children in the local area or (iii) the national ability range. Of the 83 open Academies, three currently have Funding Agreements which allow for banding with reference to the national ability range. Twenty-six others have Funding Agreements which allow for banding but all of these refer to the ability range of the applicants to the Academy. New Academies will be under the same obligations as existing Academies and other schools in this respect and will therefore be able to band with reference to the national ability range should they choose to.

Business: Education

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 6 June 2007 to the hon. Member for

Banbury, (Tony Baldry) *Official Report*, columns 625-26W, on business: education, (1) what factors have been taken into account in determining whether to proceed with a second round of Enterprise Summer School Pathfinders in 2008; [204635]

(2) what discussions officials in his Department have had on a second round of Enterprise Summer School Pathfinders to take place in 2008; [204633]

(3) what funding is available for a second round of Enterprise Summer School Pathfinders to take place in 2008; [204634]

(4) how many of the nine recommendations made following the evaluation of the School's Enterprise Education Network carried out by York Consultancy LLP in September 2007 have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* implemented; [203910]

(5) what the cost was of the assessment of the Enterprise Summer School Pathfinders conducted by Oxford University in 2006; [203909]

(6) what the cost was of the evaluation of the School's Enterprise Education Network carried out by York Consultancy LLP in September 2007. [203911]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has been working with partners to develop a second pilot enterprise summer schools programme, within the 'Young Chambers' (YCs) initiative launched in 2007 as part of the enterprise education strategy. Partners in YCs are the British Chambers of Commerce, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT), the National Education Business Partnerships Network, and YCUK. The SSAT has invited all schools taking part in the Young Chamber programme to organise a 'summer enterprise workshop', offering support of £1,000 from allocated funds. The aim of the summer enterprise workshop is to give students a real experience of business—for example around entrepreneurship, setting up and running a business—using practical input from a local business or employer, and other relevant local partners. I am pleased to say that 25 schools have applied to date, and we hope that the number will rise to around 50.

We have taken account of the evaluation of the 2006 Young Enterprise summer schools, and the SSAT is sending a copy to all applicant schools to ensure that the positive lessons can be learned. That evaluation was commissioned by Young Enterprise and funded from within the allocation made to them for the summer schools. The evaluation of the Schools' Enterprise Education Network (SEEN) carried out by York Consultancy was commissioned by the SSAT and funded from within the allocation made to them for SEEN; the DCSF intends to issue an Invitation to Tender for the future management of SEEN, and in doing so will take account of the recommendations made. I shall write to the hon. Gentleman when I have details of the costs of the two evaluations.

Children: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many support staff his Department employs specifically to help the children of service personnel. [205134]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of support staff employed specifically to help service children is not collected by this Department.

Support for service children is provided by Service Children's Education which is an agency of the Ministry of Defence.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards meeting the target of each full daycare setting being led by a graduate and those in the most disadvantaged areas being led by two graduates by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [205385]

Beverley Hughes: Over 1,000 people have been conferred with Early Years Professional Status. This number will continue to increase as the work of some candidates is resubmitted and reassessed, and as new candidates are assessed. Over 2,000 people are currently training towards Early Years Professional Status.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of affordability of childcare for children under the age of five; and if he will make a statement. [205423]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* The childcare sufficiency assessments which all local authorities were required to complete by 31 March 2008 took account of the affordability of childcare, which is one of the factors which can be regarded as the 'benchmark' of sufficiency.

This Government recognise that childcare costs are a serious matter for some families in some areas, which is why we are doing more than ever before to make good quality childcare and early education accessible and affordable.

We are investing £3 billion per year to support free early education, so all three and four year olds, irrespective of the employment status of their parents, can benefit from 12.5 hours of free early years provision for 38 weeks per year. This increases to 15 hours by 2010 and will be delivered more flexibly to meet families' needs. In addition, we announced in the Children's Plan an additional £100 million to pilot a free entitlement for 20,000 of our most disadvantaged two year olds.

We provide substantial help (totalling over £3 million a day) through the tax credit system, in providing up to 80 per cent. of childcare costs. This helps nearly 450,000 families, with nearly 280,000 of these families being those with children under the age of five.

The budget increased the commitment to childcare by announcing additional pilots to support new approaches to childcare, building on good practice from the additional childcare support provided by the £33 million London Childcare Affordability Programme. In addition, the Government will also pilot new child development grants of 200 in 10 local authority areas, payable where parents take up their childcare places and have contact with their local Children's Centre.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 687W, on children: day care, what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of staff working in nurseries who are unqualified foreign nationals. [205429]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff qualifications that are relevant to working with children and young people. In 2006, the survey estimated that 10 per cent. of paid staff working in full day care settings in England held no qualifications. However, the survey does not collect information on the nationality of staff, therefore it is not possible to estimate the number or proportion of staff working in nurseries who were unqualified foreign nationals.

Class Sizes: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil-teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Wirral West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [205069]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the pupil:teacher ratio in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Wirral West constituency and England, January 2007 the latest information available by constituency.

Pupil:teacher[1] ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Wirral West constituency and England, January 2007

	Wirral West	*England*
Primary	22.6	21.8
Secondary	14.9	16.5

[1] The PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

Source:
School Census

Provisional pupil:teacher ratios for England for January 2008 were published on 29 April at the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000787/index.shtml

Home Education

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been removed from the school register for home schooling in England since 2004; and what research has been carried out by his Department on the reasons why parents choose to home school their children. [204942]

Jim Knight: The requested information on the numbers of children who have been removed from the school register for home education is not collected centrally. In 2006 we commissioned a feasibility study from York Consulting to assess the viability of determining the prevalence of home education and to give information on why parents elect to home educate. A copy of the study's findings has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Nurseries: Local Government Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* England have notified to his Department the single funding formula they propose to use to deliver the provision of free places at private, voluntary and independent nurseries from 2010; and what mechanisms are in place to monitor the progress of local authorities in developing the funding formula. [205639]

Beverley Hughes: I would not yet expect any local authorities to have published details of their funding formula.

We made clear in guidance that local authorities should present the findings of the cost analysis to their Schools Forum and publish the findings on the local authority website. The guidance can be found at

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/earlyyears/fundingreform

We are running a pilot project to work with six local authorities as they develop their single funding formula, and sharing the learning with other local authorities in the form of guidance and update reports. We have already produced the first of our progress reports, with the next update due to follow at the end of this month. We hope to produce a guidance document at the end of the summer.

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons parents will be permitted to exempt their children from the early years foundation stage; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such exemptions on the delivery of early years education. [205421]

Beverley Hughes: It is our intention to allow settings to grant exemptions from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) learning and development requirements to individual children, where parents can show that the requirements are in conflict with their religious or philosophical beliefs. We anticipate that such exemptions will be needed in only exceptional circumstances, given the breadth and flexibility within the EYFS requirements. It is already the case that good providers of early learning and child care will tailor their provision to suit each individual child that they work with, including taking into account the views of parents, and we expect that they will continue to do so when the EYFS comes into force.

Pre-School Education: Teachers

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students studying for the early years professional status secured local authority funding for *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three years at the outset of their training. [205422]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 13 May 2008]:* We do not hold information on LA funding to Early Years Professionals that came through the Transformation Fund or now does from the Graduate Leader Fund.

Information on the Transformation Fund or Graduate Leader Fund may be available direct from local authorities or Government Offices.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the average cost pressures for schools for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [205312]

Jim Knight: The minimum funding guarantee for schools (MFG), which has been set at 2.1 per cent. for 2008 to 2011, is based on an assessment of average cost pressures schools will face from a range of pay and non-pay pressures at national level over the next three years. A spreadsheet detailing the estimated cost pressures and an explanatory note can be downloaded from the School Funding section of the TeacherNet website, on the 'School Budget Setting 2008 to 2011' page at the following web address:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolbudgets200811/

Annex A

		2008-09				2009-10			
		High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Expenditure type	*Percentage of total expenditure*	*Percentage pressure*	*Pressure on budget*	*Percentage pressure*	*Pressure on budget*	*Percentage pressure*	*Pressure on budget*	*Percentage pressure*	*Pressure on budget*
Teachers' Pay	57.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Headline award		2.47	1.42	2.21	1.27	2.36	1.36	2.00	1.15
Other pay drift		0.15	0.08	0.15	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.10	0.06
Pensions		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-teaching pay	21.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Headline award		2.00	0.43	2.00	0.43	2.00	0.43	2.00	0.43
Local pay implementation		2.00	0.43	1.50	0.32	2.00	0.43	1.50	0.32
LG pensions		2.00	0.43	0.75	0.16	2.00	0.43	0.75	0.16
Non-pay costs	21.2	2.70	0.57	2.70	0.57	2.70	0.57	2.70	0.57
Efficiency savings			-1.00		-1.00		-1.00		-1.00
Total	100	—	2.4	—	1.8	—	2.3	—	1.7

	2010-11			
	High	Low	High	Low
Expenditure type	*Percentage pressure*	*Pressure on budget*	*Percentage pressure*	*Pressure on budget*
Teachers' Pay	—	—	—	—
Headline award	2.30	1.32	2.00	1.15
Other pay drift	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pensions	-0.06	-0.03	-0.06	-0.03
Non-teaching pay	—	—	—	—
Headline award	2.00	0.43	2.00	0.43
Local pay implementation	2.00	0.43	1.50	0.32
LG pensions	2.00	0.43	0.75	0.16
Non-pay costs	2.70	0.57	2.70	0.57
Efficiency savings		-1.00		-1.00
Total	—	2.1	—	1.6

Schools: Governing Bodies

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to reform the school governors system. [205792]

Jim Knight: We set out our plans for making school governing bodies more effective in the Children's Plan. We believe that smaller, more highly skilled governing bodies, alongside improved governor training will provide more effective governance for schools. As a first step, a stakeholder working group has been established to consider reforming governance in this way.

Specialised Diplomas: Work Experience

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether employees of businesses offering work experience to Diploma students will be required to undergo Criminal Records Bureau checks; and if he will make a statement. [202578]

Jim Knight: Whether a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check is required of an employee of a business offering a work experience placement, either as part of current statutory work related learning at key stage 4 or as part of a diploma course from September 2008, depends on the nature of the placement, and an assessment of the risks involved. Risk assessments, and CRB checks where required, are frequently carried out by Education Business Partnerships on behalf of schools which have the duty to ensure this is done. There are no plans to carry out Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks on everyone a young person comes into contact with during a work experience placement including those which are part of diploma requirements. This is because looking after, training and supervising a young person during the course of their placement is not part of those employees' day to day role. CRB checks, where selectively required, have been carried out on employees of businesses offering work experience placement at KS4 for a number of years. The track record in respect of safeguarding young people during their work experience is first class, with no reported instances or difficulties.

Sure Start Programme: Expenditure

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much and what proportion of the Sure Start budget was spent on *(a)* building new children's centres, *(b)* building new buildings for existing children's centres, *(c)* staff salaries, *(d)* training existing staff, *(e)* play equipment and *(f)* food and catering in each year since the Sure Start programme was established. [205091]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 12 May 2008]*: The Department does not collect disaggregated data for expenditure on the Sure Start programme in the format requested. Capital and revenue spending in each year since the Sure Start programme was established is provided in the following table.

	Capital		*Revenue*	
	£ million	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*
1999-2000	3.6	53	3.2	47
2000-01	1.3	4	32.8	96
2001-02	11.0	10	104.8	90
2002-03	82.8	32	174.3	68
2003-04	96.9	24	308.0	76
2004-05	159.7	30	371.2	70
2005-06	353.6	43	477.6	58
2006-07	236.1	28	603.8	72

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of teachers will receive pay increases of *(a)* less than 2.45 per cent., *(b)* 2.45 per cent. and *(c)* more than 2.45 per cent. from September; and if he will make a statement. [203478]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has proposed to accept the recommendations of the School Teachers' Review Body for a pay award of 2.45 per cent. for school teachers in England and Wales from 1 September 2008. This would mean that all teachers currently in service and who remain in service on 1 September 2008 would receive a minimum uplift of 2.45 per cent. About 40 per cent. of teachers progress to a higher point in any one year and these teachers would therefore receive additional increases.

Youth Referral Orders

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people have been the subject of youth referral orders, broken down by categories of offence. [203822]

Beverley Hughes: The tables showing the available information on numbers of referral orders issued and the types of offences for which these were made are placed in the House Libraries. The tables are taken from 'Sentencing statistics 2006, England and Wales' published by the Ministry of Justice.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 16 May 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Ethnic Minority Business Task Force

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent meetings he has held with the Ethnic Minority Business Task Force. [204292]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms) when Minister for Competitiveness and the Regions, attended the second meeting of the Ethnic Minority Business Task Force on 16 January 2008. Senior officials from my Department attended the third meeting of the Ethnic Minority Business Task Force on 10 April 2008.

In addition to the Task Force meetings, the Government have recently consulted with over 600 businesses and business leaders to develop a better understanding of the challenges of building an enterprise economy in preparation for the development of the Enterprise Strategy. As part of this my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met with representatives from the Ethnic Minority Business Forum North West in Manchester on 18 October 2007 and my right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms) attended an event for ethnic minority businesses on 12 December 2007, hosted by the British Council in London.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205143]

Mr. Thomas: Based on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's (BERR) records since May 2006, there were five official BERR bookings at a cost of £1,428.70.

A monthly breakdown of official usage is given as follows:

Bookings from May 2006 to March 2008

		Number of bookings	*Total cost (£)*
Heathrow	23 October 2007	1	539.25
	10 July 2006	1	539.25
Stansted	18 January 2008	1	100.00
	8 July 2007	2	250.20
Total			1,428.70

Post Offices: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which local authorities in Gloucestershire made submissions to the recent restructuring review of post offices proposing funding one or more branches in their area. [205751]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices in Halifax were closed between 1979 and 1992. [206087]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postal Services: Competition

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure fair competition in the provision of postal services. [204757]

Mr. McFadden: Under the Postal Services Act 2000, Parliament established Postcomm as the independent regulator for postal services. Postcomm's primary statutory duty is to ensure provision of a universal postal service. Subject to this, Postcomm will exercise its functions in the manner which it considers is best calculated to further the interests of users of postal services, wherever appropriate by promoting effective competition between postal operators.

Postcomm has wide-ranging powers to gather information and investigate complaints about anti-competitive behaviour in the mail market. A Memorandum of Understanding between Postcomm and the Office of Fair Trading ensures co-operation and co-ordination on cases of anti-competitive behaviour.

Royal Mail: Business

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the level was of business use of the Post Office/Royal Mail in *(a)* the most recent year for which figures are available and *(b)* the previous year to that period. [205782]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. and Royal Mail. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, chief executive of Royal Mail, to reply on both issues direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1136-7W, on Children: Day Care, how many and what proportion of nursery pupils travelled to and from nursery *(a)* by car, *(b)* by public transport, *(c)* on foot and *(d)* by bicycle in each year since records are available. [206094]

Beverley Hughes: Information on pupils' mode of travel to school was collected for the first time in spring 2007, and was compulsory only for those schools with an approved Travel Plan.

The available information was provided in my answer of 8 May 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1136-7W.

Updated information relating to spring 2008 is expected to be available by the end of June 2008.

Children: Disabled

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme's core offer will include provision to increase assistance given by medical professionals in applying for aids, adaptations and benefits. [203690]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The national Core Offer, which was published on 15 May 2008, is a national statement of what parents of disabled children can expect from public services. These expectations are based on the five areas of information, transparency, participation, feedback and assessment. The services, which are developed locally will vary according to the needs of the disabled child and what parents want.

Sure Start Programme: Voluntary Organisations

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* local Sure Start centres and *(b)* children's centres are run by voluntary organisations. [206104]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities working with their partners in children's trusts are responsible for the overall delivery of the Sure Start Children's Centres programme in England, building on the early Sure Start Local Programmes and other provision, including planning, securing value for money and ensuring overall quality in children's centres. We encourage them to involve voluntary, private and independent organisations both in managing children's centres and as service providers in order to harness the best of all sectors in delivering quality services for children. Reliable information on how many Sure Start Children's Centres are run by voluntary organisations is not available centrally. A survey of around 1,100 children's centres last year showed around 58 per cent. of child care provision in children's centres is provided by the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector and that 74 per cent. of children's centres are using voluntary organisations to deliver other services.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Valuation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances a revaluation of a home for the purposes of council tax may be triggered. [206051]

John Healey: Listing Officers of the Valuation Office Agency have a statutory responsibility to compile and maintain council tax valuation lists. They will look to review a list entry if information is brought to their attention to suggest that the banding is not correct. The most common instance is where a property which has been improved, is then sold, and the extent of the improvements is sufficient to move it into the next band. In such cases, it is only when the property is sold that any revision of council tax band is made.

Eco-Towns

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the transcript of the telephone conference of 3 April 2008 between the Minister for Housing and Planning and hon. Members whose constituencies contain short-listed eco-town locations. [203460]

Caroline Flint: There is no transcript of the telephone conference of 3 April 2008 between myself and the hon. Members where constituencies contain short listed eco-town locations. However, I wrote to hon. Members where constituencies contain short-listed eco-town locations on 3 April 2008, setting out what I relayed during the conference call and provided some further background about the process for taking eco-towns forward. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of housing in eco-towns is planned to be zero-carbon. [203461]

Caroline Flint: As we have set out in the consultation document, "Eco-towns—Living a greener future", the development as a whole, not just housing, should reach zero carbon standards.

Eco-Towns: Greenbelt

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the short-listed proposed eco-town locations contain green belt land; and what the percentage of green belt land each contains. [203462]

Caroline Flint: In terms of development on the green belt I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 7 May, *Official Report,* column 1037W. All the shortlisted locations for eco-towns are subject to consultation and further assessment.

Eco-Towns: Low Incomes

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of housing in eco-towns she plans to be affordable. [203458]

Caroline Flint: As set out in the consultation document, "Eco-towns—Living a greener future", affordable housing should make up between 30 and 50 per cent. of the total housing.

Eco-Towns: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the new Planning Policy Statement on eco-towns will be location-specific. [202589]

Caroline Flint: Yes, the eco-towns policy statement will be place specific, and will be an important material consideration in the determination of any planning application for an eco-town, particularly where the development plan is silent or out of date.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether planning guidance for eco-towns will be site-specific. [203459]

Caroline Flint: Yes, the eco-towns policy statement will be place specific, and will be an important material consideration in the determination of any planning application for an eco-town, particularly where the development plan is silent or out of date.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the approach in the draft planning policy statement on eco-towns will follow the approach to national policy statements envisaged in the Planning Bill, with particular reference to local publicity, consultation and parliamentary scrutiny. [204672]

Caroline Flint: The draft eco-towns policy statement will not be a national policy statement for the purpose of the Planning Bill, and therefore will not be covered by the provisions on consultation set out in it. However I can assure you that we will be publicly consulting on the draft eco-towns policy statement, which we expect to publish in July.

Energy: EU Law

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions officials in her Department discussed the proposed labelling of heating systems in the energy-using products directive with representatives of the European Commission in each of the last two years. [205440]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

To date, my officials have held four discussions on this subject with representatives of the European Commission. These consisted of a bilateral on 31 January 2008, two energy-using products consultation forums on 18 December 2007 and 29 February 2008 and a conference call on 24 April 2007.

Additionally, an informal meeting with the European Commission and other member states has been arranged for 22 May.

Housing: Derelict Land

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 740W, on Housing: Derelict Land, what proportion of new dwellings built in 2006 were built on previously residential land, broken down by *(a)* county and *(b)* local authority area, presenting the data in a manner consistent with that of her answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1524W, on brownfield development. [204749]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 740-41W.

This information was taken from the Department's Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS). Because of the way that LUCS data are collected, the statistics are variable from year to year. At spatial scales below the regional level investigation has shown that annual figures are highly volatile and not robust. Information for local authorities and counties were therefore given as multi-year averages.

Local Authorities: Asylum

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the cost to local authorities arising from the Border and Immigration Agency's Case Resolution Programme. [204186]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

We have been working closely with local authorities to help mitigate impacts, including via a transitional costs fund. The financial support available will depend on the claims made by local authorities. Funding will be available for some items of expenditure incurred by local authorities on an agreed cohort of supported families cases processed by the agency. We cannot therefore accurately estimate the level of funding required.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the cash value was of payments made by local authority employers, including secondary contributions, to the local government pension scheme in each year since 1996-97; [202601]

(2) what the estimated cost to employers of the local government pension scheme was in each financial year since 1996-97 in *(a)* actual terms and *(b)* excluding the 20 per cent. of costs which relate to non-local authority employers. [202583]

John Healey: The amount of contributions paid by English local authority employers in the local government pension scheme, excluding the 20 per cent. of costs which relate to non-local authority employers, for the period 1996-97 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table. These data relate to payments made under the scheme that ceased to have effect on 31 March 2008. Since then, contributions paid by employers and employees continue to be made under the new local government pension scheme which came into effect on 1 April 2008.

£ million

	Total cost	*Total cost excluding estimated non-local authority employer costs of 20 per cent.*
1996-97	1,322	1,058
1997-98	1,520	1,216
1998-99	1,788	1,430
1999-2000	1,972	1,578
2000-01	2,273	1,818
2001-02	2,617	2,094
2002-03	2,916	2,333
2003-04	3,217	2,574
2004-05	3,544	2,835
2005-06	4,124	3,300
2006-07	4,626	3,701

These data represent the actual amount of contributions paid by employers participating in the scheme according to annual returns submitted to the Department by scheme administering authorities in England. The returns include all contributions paid by scheme employers.

Members: Correspondence

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the representation of the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey on behalf of his constituent Mr. Trevor Bailess on the Home Information Pack scheme. [206106]

Caroline Flint: I have now replied to my hon. Friend.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the responsibilities of the Local Government Taskforce are; and when it was established; [205415]

(2) in what projects the Local Government Taskforce is currently involved; [205411]

(3) what funds the Local Government Taskforce received from the public purse in each year since it was established. [205412]

John Healey: The role of the Local Government Taskforce (LGTF), since its establishment in 2000, has been to embed good construction principles in local government and provide a link between local government and the construction sector. The LGTF has also taken the lead role in supporting delivery of the construction procurement strands of the Efficiency Review. Funding and priorities for 2008-09 are currently under discussion. Figures available to Communities and Local Government (CLG) on resource allocated by CLG and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (including their predecessor Departments) to the LGTF since 2003-04 are set out as follows.

Funding to LGTF 2003-08

£

	CLG funding (exc. VAT)	*DTI/ BERR funding (exc. VAT)*
2003-04	74,000.00	175,000.00
2004-05	175,000.00	18,800.00
2005-06	175,000.00	0.00
2006-07	175,000.00	—
2007-08	175,000.00	40,000.00

Social Rented Housing: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many new *(a)* local authority social lettings and *(b)* registered social landlord lettings were made to foreign nationals from (i) EU member states and (ii) non-EU states in each year since 1997; [164359]

(2) how many foreign nationals obtained a tenancy of social housing without holding an existing social housing tenancy in each year since 1997. [164360]

Mr. Iain Wright: I would like to apologise for the delay in answering these questions.

Information on the number of foreign national households allocated social housing is collected in the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). A question on nationality was first introduced to the form for the 2006-07 data collection period. CORE is collected on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government by St. Andrew's University. Historically CORE has only collected information from registered social landlords. An increasing number of local authorities are now providing information through this process as well, but there are still some gaps in the data.

In 2006-07 for registered social landlords, there were 1,769 new general needs lettings made to foreign nationals from European Economic Area (EEA) countries and 2,259 from non-EEA countries.

Adjusting for missing data from local authorities, we estimate there were around 7,000 general needs local authority lets to foreign nationals. It is not possible to estimate the split between EEA and non-EEA foreign nationals.

Overall, we estimate that around 6 per cent. (equivalent to around 11,000) new general needs lettings were made to foreign nationals in 2006-07. This estimate adjusts for missing local authority data, and includes lets made to nationals from EEA countries.

These estimates are the first to be made on the basis of a full year's information and are therefore the most robust information available.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many social lettings were allocated to *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* A8 nationals in each region in each year since 2004; [200999]

(2) how many *(a)* registered social landlord and *(b)* local authority social lettings were taken up by (i) non-British citizens and (ii) A8 nationals in each quarter since 1 April 2006; and what these figures were as a proportion of total lettings in each case. [201002]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (PQ 164359 and 164360).

Stamp Duties

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average stamp duty paid by a first-time buyer in *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* England and *(c)* the United Kingdom in 2007-08. [204750]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

No estimate has been made of the stamp duty land tax paid by first-time buyers. There is no requirement for taxpayers to provide information to HMRC as to whether they are first-time buyers.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Football Licensing Authority: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department plans to allocate to the Football Licensing Authority in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [206237]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The planned funding to the Football Licensing Authority for the next three years is as follows:

Football licensing authority

			£ million
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Capital	0.060	0.000	0.000
Resource	1.261	1.261	1.261
Total	1.321	1.261	1.261

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish his Department's annual resource accounts for 2007-08. [206238]

Margaret Hodge: I expect the annual resource accounts for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for 2007-08 will be laid before Parliament before the Summer Recess and published by the end of September.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value of *(a)* awards and *(b)* payments made from the New Opportunities Fund for physical education and sport was in each year since it was set up. [205817]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* The figures in the following table reflect the total value of awards and payments made from the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) and its successor the Big Lottery Fund under the programmes listed in each year since NOF was set up. The figures given for 2007-08 are the latest currently available, but are not the complete figures for the year.

Total awards made

							£
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
PE Sport in Schools	0	36,511,096	193,319,327	330,571,171	66,259,638	19,200,328	8,084,957
Spaces for Sports and Arts	10,596,800	11,765,026	208,810	0	1,637,163	178,080	0
School Sports Coordinators	0	10,346,489	8,916,210	7,475,404	15,808,192	11,952,507	13,060,748
Community Sports Programmes	0	0	0	57,127,482	23,810,981	9,338,760	-185,245
Football Foundation	0	30,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10,596,800	88,622,611	202,444,347	395,174,057	107,515,975	40,669,675	20,960,460

Payment

							£
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
PE Sport in Schools	0	1,303,435	16,291,956	67,221,580	198,106,412	172,814,434	89,921,992
Spaces for Sports and Arts	11,400	1,808,083	8,090,580	-760,063	3,406,556	11,624,093	-730,649
School Sports Coordinators	0	1,689,821	4,925,199	7,086,675	13,186,855	10,415,616	16,356,430
Community Sports Programmes	0	0	0	5,765,175	27,164,829	24,238,854	13,814,298

Payment

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08
Football Foundation	0	0	3,071,174	5,679,749	8,372,504	6,740,431	6,136,142
Total	11,400	4,801,339	32,378,909	84,993,116	250,237,156	225,833,427	125,498,213

UK Sport: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department plans to allocate to UK Sport in each of the next three years. [206239]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The planned funding for UK Sport for each of the next three years is as follows:

UK sport

	2008-09	2009-10	£ million 2010-11
Capital	0.580	0.580	0.580
Resource	49.971	59.971	62.971
Total	51.551	60.551	63.551

DEFENCE

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the Piranha V future rapid effect system utility vehicle to come into service; and how many he plans to order; [205394]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 39-40WS, on the future rapid effect system utility vehicle design decision, what the next stage of the utility vehicle programme will be; when he expects that stage to be concluded; and how much it will cost; [205396]

(3) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 39-40WS, on the future rapid effect system military vehicle design decision, what the proposed package of work on risk reduction will consist of; when he expects this work to be completed; and how much it will cost. [205409]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The date by which the Utility Vehicle will enter service and how many will be ordered will be set at the time of the main investment decision. The next stage in the FRES utility vehicle programme will be the Demonstration Phase. Its duration and cost will be agreed at the time of the relevant investment decision.

Prior to the Demonstration Phase we will conduct a package of risk reduction work to further increase our confidence that the selected design is capable of delivering the required level of performance. In addition to addressing performance issues, the risk reduction work will also allow the designer to review aspects of their exploitation plans for future phases of the utility vehicle programme with regard to estimates of cost, risk and schedule. The duration and cost of this risk reduction work will be the subject of negotiations between the MOD and the vehicle designer.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1924W, on the departmental internet, from which networks write access to Wikipedia has been blocked; when the decision to block them was made; for what reasons it was made; and if he will place in the Library his Department's documentation of the decision. [202379]

Derek Twigg: We have blocked write access to Wikipedia via the MOD Enterprise Gateway Service (EGS). This covers MOD's basic level (Restricted/Unclassified) Wide Area Network, servicing the vast majority of MOD's office-based IT systems.

A number of minor systems can access the internet directly; these are either older systems, or those under local control which have specific business requirements which make them unsuitable for connection to the main Wide Area Network. Such systems will not be blocked from accessing Wikipedia.

More highly protected networks have never had internet access, and so cannot access Wikipedia.

The decision to block write access to Wikipedia via the EGS was taken on 30 November 2007 by staff of the Director General Information (DGInfo) and the Joint Security Co-ordination Centre (JSyCC). There was no compelling business reason to have the facility to update Wikipedia.

An exchange of emails at desk level documented the decision, and the method to be followed. I am withholding these e-mails as in order to safeguard national security, this information is not placed in the public domain.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the technical arrangement between NATO Kosovo Force and the EU rule of law civilian mission to be finalised; and what assessment he has made of the effects on military and civilian operations in Kosovo of the time taken to secure finalisation. [202385]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: NATO and EU staffs have produced Technical Arrangement papers to facilitate coordination and support between the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the EU rule of law civilian mission (EULEX). It is envisaged that they will be signed into force by the Commander KFOR and the Head of EULEX once EULEX is ready to deploy.

There continues to be good co-operation between the two organisations on the ground in Kosovo.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 484W, on Radioactive Materials: Transport, what plans he has to ensure that the refurbished truck cargo heavy duty trailers and newly purchased tractor heads are compliant with regulations on radiation hazard, with particular reference to the carrying of radiation hazard warning signs when loaded with special nuclear materials; and if he will make a statement. [205190]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The regulations governing the transport of radioactive material, including the requirements for radiation hazard warning signs, are the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Transportable Pressure Vessel Regulations 2007. Provision exists within these for radioactive materials defined as instruments of war, or components thereof, to be exempt. Notwithstanding, arrangements have been put in place for the transportation of special nuclear material that are, so far as is reasonably practicable, at least as good as those required by legislation.

Hazard warning signs are generally intended to provide information to responding emergency services in the event of an incident. The Ministry of Defence police escorting convoys have this and more information to hand. All factors, including security, will be taken into account in determining whether hazard signs will appear on the replacement vehicles when carrying special nuclear material.

Veterans

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the assistance given to soldiers to prepare for life upon return from tours of duty in theatres of operation. [205289]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Prior to deploying on operations soldiers receive welfare and personal briefings that are intended to assist them in coping with the demands of operational tours and the subsequent return from theatre. These briefings are supplemented by a booklet and a DVD.

At the end of an operational tour personnel leaving theatre will go through a 24-36 hours period of 'decompression', prior to return to their home base. This enables them to unwind physically and mentally and to talk to colleagues and superiors about their experiences. Personnel also attend mandatory briefings during this period, designed to help them manage the transition to normal life. On return to the home base, and prior to the mandatory post operational leave, soldiers go through a normalisation process. This lasts for up to five days and is a structured programme of briefings and activities to help the re-adjustment to non-operational service life in barracks. Access to specialised mental healthcare is available at every stage of the process, as is access to the Army's comprehensive range of welfare services.

For those leaving the operational theatre with illness or injuries it is often not practical for them to undergo decompression or normalisation. Those hospitalised at Selly Oak are visited at least daily by the Service Brigade Liaison Officers and the Defence Medical Welfare Staff. Arrangements are also made for their families to visit them as soon as possible to offer additional bedside comfort and support after their arrival in a UK hospital. They can also be counselled by Army welfare staff and, where appropriate, referred for more specialist treatment. For those who are evacuated from theatre to home sick leave the Army Sickness Absence Management process involves regular unit representative contact until individuals return to their units or are discharged from the Army. Where support requirements are identified before discharge an action plan is developed with the Veterans Welfare Service that ensures support continues for at least two years beyond discharge where necessary.

The Army has also recently implemented Trauma Risk Management (TRiM). This aims to identify at the earliest possible stage those who may have been affected by traumatic incidents so that appropriate counselling, or other forms of treatment, can be arranged for them.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many recommendations of the Committee on Honours, Decorations and Medals have been submitted for consideration in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [203477]

(2) how many consultations the Committee on Honours, Decorations and Medals has conducted in the last 12 months; who was consulted; and if he will make a statement; [203490]

(3) on how many occasions the Committee on Honours, Decorations and Medals has met in the last 12 months; what the venue for each of these meetings was; what the cost of each meeting was; and if he will make a statement; [203506]

(4) what the cost of *(a)* the Committee on Honours, Decorations and Medals and *(b)* its secretariat was in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [203507]

(5) how many officials are engaged in the work of the Committee on Honours, Decorations and Medals; and if he will make a statement; [203508]

(6) if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agendas and *(b)* minutes of each meeting of the Committee on Honours, Decorations and Medals in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [203509]

Edward Miliband: Secretariat support for the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals is provided by the Ceremonial Secretariat based in the Cabinet Office. The cost of the secretariat is accounted for in the departmental report and accounts.

The committee is made up of the following members:

Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service (Chair)

Private Secretary to The Sovereign

Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence

Defence Services Secretary

Permanent Secretary Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Permanent Secretary, Home Office

Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood

Ceremonial Officer of the Cabinet Office (Secretary).

All members of the committee have extensive careers in public administration and/or as members of the armed forces or the diplomatic service. As the posts are ex officio, members serve on the committee while they hold their current posts.

It is established practice not to disclose the details of internal discussion and advice.

Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people responded to the Have Your Say exercise as part of the Crime and Communities Review; [203237]

(2) what responsibility his Department has in combating crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour; [203238]

(3) what the responsibilities and duties of Louise Casey are. [203239]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office plays a number of roles in relation to combating crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour. This includes, providing secretariat support to Cabinet and Cabinet Committees relating to domestic affairs, cross-Government work to tackle social exclusion including some of the underlying causes of offending, and supporting third sector organisations. The Strategy Unit also works collaboratively with other Government Departments on a range of home affairs issues.

The Prime Minister commissioned Louise Casey to carry out a cross-departmental review to look at how local communities, the police, local criminal justice agencies and other local partners can best work together to reduce crime, raise community confidence, improve information to local people and lower the fear of crime. The review is also looking at what makes people get involved in tackling problems in their community. The review is based in the Cabinet Office because of its cross-departmental nature but is staffed jointly by Departments.

The Crime and Communities Review's call for evidence attracted 1,457 responses to the questionnaire. A further 606 community activists attended evidence gathering events held across the country. The review is due to report by June 2008.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many freedom of information requests made to his Department were *(a)* answered (i) within 20 days, (ii) within 40 days, (iii) within 60 days, (iv) after 60 days, *(b)* not answered and *(c)* answered citing an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a reason not to provide the requested information in each year since the Act came into force. [201735]

Edward Miliband: The Ministry of Justice has published two annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005 and 2006. These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The 2007 annual report is currently being drafted for publication in June 2008. However, statistics on requests received in each quarter of 2007 have been published and can be found via the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public bodies to respond to written requests within 20 working days of receipt, but allows additional time for the consideration of the public interest in disclosing the requested information.

The published reports provide statistics on the number of "non-routine" requests received during each period where: an initial response was provided within 20 working days; an initial response was given outside this time but a public interest test extension had been applied; an initial response was given outside this time and no public interest test extension was applied, and where no initial response had been given at the time the statistics were collected.

The 2006 annual report provides statistics on the duration of the public interest test extensions in that year. Corresponding statistics for 2007 will be available when the 2007 annual report is published.

Information requests where deadlines were extended beyond 40 days is not collected in the form requested; however the proportion of resolvable requests the Cabinet Office answered "in time" (i.e. meeting the deadline or with a permitted extension) in 2007 was 97 per cent.

For 2005 and 2006, the reports show the number of requests received by the Department which were withheld, either in full or in part, where an FOI exemption or EIR exception was applied. For 2007, the number of such requests was 152, based on aggregated quarterly statistics from 2007. Requests withheld solely under the exemption applicable to "information available by other means" are not included; statistics on these are not collected centrally because they are dealt with as routine business.

Immigration

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of immigrants arriving in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Northamptonshire in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [201244]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 May 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about the number of immigrants arriving in (a) the UK and (b) Northamptonshire in 2008. (201244)

In 2006 an estimated 591,000 people arrived to live in the UK for at least a year. These are the latest available official estimates of Total International Migration.

International migration figures for local authorities are only calculated on a mid-year basis to form part of the mid-year population estimates. These show an estimated 7,000 people arriving to live in Northamptonshire for at least a year between mid-2005 and mid-2006.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Standards

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps are being taken to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of returning officers. [205705]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is using its powers under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 to implement a performance standards framework for returning officers and electoral registration officers in Great Britain. The Commission will use the framework to provide an assessment of the performance of individual officers, and to identify areas where further support may be required to improve performance. The Commission will also collect and analyse financial information from returning officers to support its assessments of performance and efficiency.

Voting Methods: Standards

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps are being taken to monitor the effectiveness of the delivery of *(a)* poll cards and *(b)* postal votes in each local authority area. [205706]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the responsibility for sending poll cards and postal votes to electors in each local authority area rests with the returning officer for that area. The Commission's guidance to returning officers provides information about the production and distribution of poll cards and the issue and distribution of postal votes.

The Commission has no powers to direct or challenge individual returning officers in relation to the exercise of their statutory duties. However, the Commission's performance standards framework will support an assessment of the performance of individual officers in relation to a number of key management standards.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has undertaken research into the potential risk of lung damage and other allergic reactions from household waste storage and collection practices amongst *(a)* immuno-compromised patients and *(b)* people with fungi allergies. [204485]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA published in 2007 a report by independent consultants that assessed the health impact of fortnightly residual collections of biodegradable waste. Part of the work assessed available evidence on health risks to members of the public from air-borne micro-organisms and air-borne biological material from household waste. They concluded that there is no evidence which indicates that fortnightly residual waste collection will result in an increase of these substances to levels in air which could pose any risks for members of the public. The research literature provides no evidence that fortnightly residual household waste collection will cause any significant health impacts for residents, or that any health impacts are likely to be significantly greater than those associated with weekly collections.

This is consistent with wider studies of the health effects of waste management, which indicate that waste management has at most a minor effect on health.

The research did not specifically assess risks to susceptible groups of people.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers waste collection authorities have to enter *(a)* the curtilage of a property and *(b)* a property; under what circumstances such powers may be exercised; what powers such authorities have to inspect the contents of such domestic rubbish receptacles; and what penalty may be imposed upon householders who refuse entry to waste collection authority representatives by the authority. [204534]

Joan Ruddock: The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 extended the powers of section 108 of the Environment Act 1995 to waste collection authorities in relation to their functions under Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA).

Subject to at least seven days notice expiring, and either the consent of the occupant or a warrant under schedule 18 of the Environment Act, persons authorised by the Environment Agency or the enforcing authority (which could be a local authority waste officer) are entitled to enter property to examine and investigate possible waste offences.

This would most likely be where a nuisance was being caused to the neighbourhood, for example by not placing waste in any receptacle and allowing it to be spread beyond the curtilage of the property.

This is not a power designed to enable the inspection of household waste receptacles. Local authority powers under section 46 of the EPA cover how waste is presented for collection, not how waste is stored by householders. If a householder had breached a section

46 notice it would be clear to the authority when it collected the waste, so there would be no need to enter the property to gather such evidence.

Floods: Finance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on the funding required to implement the final recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's report on the 2007 floods; and if he will provide a breakdown by subheading of the estimated costs of implementing those recommendations. [205612]

Mr. Woolas: We have announced an initial provision of £34.5 million funding over the three years to 2010-11 which may be needed to implement the Pitt recommendations. We will determine how this should be spent when we see the final Pitt report and the priorities which it contains.

Litter

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department monitors the number of visitors to the Knowledge Bank on litter run by his Department and ENCAMS. [204657]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not monitor the number of people who visit the ENCAMS website, or the number of people visiting the Knowledge Bank section on litter.

Plastic Bags

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will convene a forum among representatives of supermarkets to discuss an industry-wide approach to reducing the use of plastic bags. [206067]

Joan Ruddock: A forum was convened on 7 May 2008 which included representatives from supermarkets, the British Retail Consortium, and others. Its aim was to discuss the reduction of single use carrier bags.

Recycling: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from Castle Point Borough Council in relation to the Environment Agency's assessment of its recycling plan; and if he will make a statement. [204640]

Joan Ruddock: The Environment Agency has made no assessment of Castle Point borough council's (CPBC) recycling plan.

CPBC are involved with the Essex Waste Management Strategy which is co-ordinated by Essex county council. The Environment Agency was recently consulted on this, but has no separate plan for CPBC.

I have no record of any representations having been received by my Department from CPBC in respect of this matter.

Sewers

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on transferring ownership of private sewers to water companies since the consultation in 2004. [205874]

Mr. Woolas: The Government Response Paper published in October 2004 acknowledged that transfer of ownership to sewerage undertakers would result in far-reaching changes and that further work was needed to understand the implications. Since then DEFRA has undertaken this work, which has included further cost estimates, a stakeholder seminar and qualitative customer research. Details of this work can be found on the DEFRA website.

As a result, the Government announced in February 2007 their decision to transfer private sewers and lateral drains draining to the public sewerage system into water company ownership. We subsequently published a public consultation in July 2007 on implementation options for the proposed transfer. The consultation also posed questions on the scope of assets to be included in the transfer and ways in which the creation of new private sewers can be prevented.

A summary of responses was published in March 2008 and we are currently preparing proposals for implementation with the help of a steering group of key stakeholders. The work of the steering group will inform the decision on the timing of transfer and the drafting of regulations for implementation. We expect to be in a position to consult on these regulations later this year.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will allocate resources to develop commingled waste collections. [205753]

Joan Ruddock: Local authorities, in consultation with residents, are best placed to decide on the appropriate recycling and waste collection services for their areas. My Department funds the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to provide local authorities with advice on good practice.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 640W, on Burma: Sanctions, whether a date has been set for the presentation of the conclusions drawn from discussions between the UK and its EU partners on how best to target financial transactions owned or controlled by Burmese officials; and if he will make a statement. [205862]

Meg Munn: The UK has shared proposals for targeting financial transactions with the European Commission and EU member states. Discussions are continuing at a technical level in Brussels.

It is too early to say when these will be concluded.

Burma: United Nations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Burma is expected following discussions by the UN Security Council on 24 April. [205807]

Meg Munn: On 2 May, immediately before the devastating cyclone hit Burma, the UN Security Council agreed a Presidential Statement relating to the Burmese regime's 10 May referendum. The Council reaffirmed its statements of 11 October and 15 November 2007 and called on the Burmese regime to establish the conditions and create an atmosphere conducive to an inclusive and credible political process.

Since the cyclone hit, we have focused on the imperative of getting humanitarian need to those who desperately need it.

The UK will continue to make the case for the Security Council to engage on the growing humanitarian situation in Burma.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to ensure that Burma is put on the UN Security Council's formal agenda; and if he will make a statement. [205808]

Meg Munn: We have made clear our belief that the UN Security Council should engage on the fast deteriorating situation in Burma as a matter of urgency. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has indicated his immense frustration at the way in which the Burmese government is restricting the international aid effect, and the Secretary-General should have the firm resolve of the Security Council behind him. The UK raised Burma in Security Council consultations on 12 May and continues to encourage members to place humanitarian relief on the formal agenda. We have also asked the UN Secretary-General to convene an Emergency Summit of world leaders to press for expanded delivery of aid as soon as possible. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed these issues with the UN Secretary-General on 13 May and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy, Michael Williams, traveled to New York on 14 May to continue this dialogue with the UN and Security Council partners. The UK Permanent Representative in New York continues to make our concerns clear.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of food and drink procured for working lunches attended by officials at which no external invitees were present in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [205519]

Meg Munn: This information is not held centrally and could be researched only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205834]

Meg Munn: This information is not held centrally, as there is no dedicated account for expenditure on any of these activities. Individual budget holders would need to identify relevant expenditure to obtain a total for the Department, and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Kingston upon Hull

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the itinerary of the visit of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Zha Peixin, to Kingston-upon-Hull in April 2004. [205405]

Meg Munn: We do not have a copy of the itinerary for the visit of the Ambassador for the People's Republic of China, Mr. Zha Peixin. We would refer any specific questions regarding this visit to the Chinese Embassy.

Lebanon: Armed Conflict

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the violence in Beirut on the surrounding region. [205778]

Meg Munn: The UK remains deeply concerned by the current violence in Lebanon. Such unrest is not only a threat to Lebanon but also to the stability of the wider region. We urge all sides to work urgently for a resolution to the crisis. We strongly support the Arab League mission, which arrived in Beirut on 14 May and are working for action at the UN Security Council to encourage a solution.

Maldives: Elections

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to support media and election monitoring in the Maldives in the run up to multi-party elections; and if he will make a statement. [204679]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East gave to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1704W.

We are working closely with the BBC, the Maldives Ministry of Information and the Maldives Media Association to promote media freedom and skills development.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of the Maldives on the *(a)* establishment of (i) an election commission, (ii) a judicial commission and (iii) an anti-corruption commission ahead of the multi-party elections and *(b)* on the subsequent operation of such commissions. [204686]

Meg Munn: In a meeting with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in April the Maldivian Foreign Minister, Abdulla Shahid, stated that an Interim Election Commission would be created within 30 days of the ratification of the new constitution. He underlined that the deliberations of the Special Majlis (Constitutional Assembly) were nearly complete. Foreign Minister Shahid told us that the Commission would be responsible for all elections-related matters and that all registered political parties would be able to nominate Commissioners.

We have had no specific discussions on other commissions, but in his statement to EU Parliamentarians and officials on 6 May, Ahmed Sareer, Chargé d'affaires at the Maldives Mission to the EU, confirmed that an Interim Judicial Service Commission and an Anti Corruption Commission would be created within 30 and 60 days respectively of the introduction of the new constitution.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will answer the letter of 31 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs. Brohi and Aftab Brohi. [205518]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 7 May 2008.

Pakistan: Terrorism

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1105W, on Pakistan: Terrorism, (1) in how many of the six cases British consular access was *(a)* requested and *(b)* granted; [206054]

(2) in how many of the six cases the detainee complained of mistreatment. [206055]

Meg Munn: Of these six cases, two were mono British nationals and four were dual British/Pakistani nationals. We sought consular access to the two mono British nationals and were given full consular access in one case. We have also requested, but are yet to be given, consular access to one dual national on exceptional grounds in accordance with our published policy on the death penalty.

Of the six cases mentioned, four have alleged mistreatment whilst in Pakistani custody.

Somalia: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of extrajudicial executions allegedly committed in Somalia by Transitional Federal Government forces, Ethiopian forces and other armed groups; and if he will make a statement. [204828]

Meg Munn: On 6 May, Amnesty International published a report alleging extrajudicial killing by Transitional Federal Government forces, Ethiopian forces and other armed groups. The Ethiopian Government have categorically denied the claims.

We are very concerned about human rights abuses committed in Somalia. Where breaches of humanitarian law are proved, we will condemn them unreservedly and expect those responsible to be held to account.

We have supported the UN Human Rights Council in renewing the mandate of the international expert for Somalia and have asked the UN to produce a comprehensive plan, and to build capacity to monitor and report on the human rights situation there. To be effective and have a sustainable impact, measures to combat human rights abuses should be part of a broad approach to peace-building.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of responsibility for the recent attacks on villages, markets and populated areas in Umm Sidir, Ein Bassar and Shegeg Karo in north Darfur; and what representations he has made to the Sudanese Government about the attacks. [204832]

Meg Munn: We strongly condemn the recent aerial bombings by the Government of Sudan in north Darfur, which resulted in the deaths of a number of civilians. We told Government of Sudan representatives, at the Sudan Consortium of 5-7 May, that such actions were unacceptable and in direct violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1591. We will consider farther measures against any party that fails to respect their responsibility under international humanitarian law to protect civilians.

We have also strongly condemned the recent attack by the Justice and Equality Movement rebel group on Omdurman which, on 11 May, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary described as a "shocking further escalation of violence in Sudan". We have reiterated the UN Secretary-General's call on 10 May for an immediate end to the fighting and for all parties to do everything they can to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Sudan: International Criminal Court

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to promote a United Nations Security Council resolution to respond to Sudan's failure to comply with warrants issued by the International Criminal Court; and if he will make a statement. [205214]

Meg Munn: The UK sponsored UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1593 of March 2005 referred the human rights situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The UK fully supports the ICC and my right hon. Friend the Foreign

Secretary raised the need for Sudan to comply with the ICC in his meeting with Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor on 28 April.

The UK continues to press the Government of Sudan, at all levels, to comply with the ICC requirements. We have also raised Sudanese compliance with the ICC with partners, including in the UN Security Council, who have influence over the Government of Sudan.

HEALTH

Arthritis: Health Services

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the particular continuing health and social care needs of people with arthritis are taken into account in *(a)* Lord Darzi's review of the NHS and *(b)* the World Class Commissioning initiative. [203934]

Ann Keen: The National Health Service Next Stage Review, Our NHS, our future, led by Lord Darzi, challenges frontline care professionals to examine the way services are organised locally against the best available evidence of what works and with the input of users. In order to make sure that the local review work covers the widest possible variety of specific conditions, it has been arranged in terms of eight broad generic pathways of care. Details can be found at www.ournhs.nhs.uk. Those pathways most relevant to arthritis include staying healthy and long-term conditions.

World-class commissioning is an ambitious initiative that is being rolled out across the entire NHS, with the purpose of strengthening the commissioning of health and wellbeing services across the board. The world class commissioning programme will improve health outcomes for people with arthritis just as it will improve outcomes for people with any health need or condition, through transforming the way that health and care services are commissioned.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* data and *(b)* other evidence were taken into account in formulating Improving Outcomes Guidance for head and neck cancer services. [205398]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its Guidance on Cancer Services: Improving Outcomes in Head and Neck Cancers, in November 2004. The supporting research evidence for this guidance is available on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/csghn_researchevidence.pdf

Dental Services: Young People

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental braces were provided for those under the age of 18 years in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the associated costs were funded by the NHS. [205873]

Ann Keen: Patients aged under 18 are exempted from national health service dental charges. If a dental brace is prescribed and fitted as part of an NHS course of treatment for a patient aged under 18, the full cost of that treatment is borne by the NHS.

Information is no longer collected on individual appliances, including dental braces provided as part of NHS treatment. Information is available for the years ending 31 March 2004, 2005 and 2006. The available information is provided in the following table. No information is collected on dental appliances or treatment provided outside the NHS.

England only	*Year ending March*		
Description	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*
Removable Spring and / or Screw Appliance—Upper	50,274	59,215	63,529
Removable Spring and / or Screw Appliance—Lower	447	485	600
Simple Fixed Appliance—Upper	10,378	9,554	8,921
Simple Fixed Appliance—Lower	1,121	641	726
Fixed Multiband or Multibracket Appliance—Upper	151,905	143,602	140,975
Fixed Multiband or Multibracket Appliance—Lower	138,985	131,275	127,152
Functional Appliance	14,077	13,350	13,386
Bite Plane Appliance	6,626	5,941	5,627
Total	373,812	364,064	360,916

Source:
NHS Business Authority Dental Services Division

Departmental Managers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regular meetings are held of and among his Department's national clinical directors. [205242]

Ann Keen: The national clinical directors meet as a group each month.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role his Department's National Clinical Director for Service Reconfiguration is playing in Lord Darzi's review of the NHS in England. [205243]

Ann Keen: All of the national clinical directors have been involved in the review, commensurate with their roles as national clinical leaders in their particular fields. For example, they have been available to discuss with the local clinical pathway groups in each national health service region the evidence base in their particular areas of expertise. In his role as National Clinical Director for Emergency Access and National Clinical Director for Service Design, Professor Sir George Alberti has advised on clinical quality and safety and clear patient pathways.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have discussed the Working Time Directive with (i) EU officials, (ii) Commission members, (iii) officials from member states and (iv) Ministers from member states in the last 12 months. [205824]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* Ministers and officials have been regular contact with a wide range of European Union and Commission officials on this dossier in the last 12 months.

The Government will continue to try to secure an acceptable agreement with member states and the European Commission on the European Working Time Directive.

I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W and on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1544W.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W, on Doctors: Working hours, if he will publish the dossier to which the answer refers. [205825]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* The independent research on the impact of the European Working Time Directive on medical training by Sheffield university will be published in summer 2008.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1514W, on the NHS: Working Hours, which other member states are seeking changes to the European Working Time Directive. [205919]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* There is consensus among member states regarding changes needed to the European Working Time Directive to address the SiMAP and Jaeger issues.

Foetal Tissue: Blood

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many units collected by the NHS Cord Blood Bank were *(a)* suitable for and *(b)* used for transplant purposes in each year since 2005; [205557]

(2) how many units the NHS Cord Blood Bank collected in each year since 2005. [205559]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Cord Blood Bank collected 2,543 samples in 2004-05, 2,056 in 2005-06, 2,232 in 2006-07 and 2,632 in 2007-08. This has provided 5,569 suitable samples of which 129 have been issued.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his announcement on 5 May 2008, that 12 new general practitioner practices will be provided in under-doctored areas, whether the allocation of funding to these new practices from the Access Fund will affect earlier allocations from the fund. [205307]

Mr. Bradshaw: No.

Health Services: Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 251-2W, on Children: Health Services, what estimate he has made of the number of additional health visitors to be recruited for the Child Health Promotion Programme. [205428]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 7 May, *Official Report*, column 1017W.

Heart Diseases: Waiting Lists

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for cardiac operations was in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* Greenwich in (i) 1997 and (ii) the last year for which figures are available. [205342]

Ann Keen: The median waiting times for in-patient admission for the specialty cardiothoracic surgery are shown in the following tables.

Median waiting times for elective cardiothoracic surgery, position at end of quarter: commissioner based

	Median waiting times in weeks	
	Quarter 4 1996-97	*Quarter 2 2007-08*
England	17.6	5.0
London	17.9	4.5
Bexley and Greenwich Health Authority[1]	18.7	—
Greenwich primary care trust[1] (PCT)	—	[3]n/a

[1] Existing organisation at quarter four 1996-97.
[2] Existing organisation at quarter two 2007-08.
[3] Median not provided as the total number of waiters is too small for a statistically meaningful median to be calculated. A breakdown is given by weeks waiting in the following table.
Source: Department of Health form QF01.

Patients waiting for elective cardiothoracic surgery, Greenwich PCT: end of quarter two 2007-08 (commissioner based)

	Patients still waiting at quarter end, by weeks waiting
Under 1 week	2
1 to <2 weeks	1
2 to <3 weeks	2
3 to <4 weeks	1
4 to <5 weeks	1
5 to <6 weeks	0
6 to <7 weeks	3
7 to <8 weeks	3
8 to <9 weeks	0
9 to <10 weeks	0
10 to <11 weeks	1
Total waiting list	14

Source: Department of Health form QF01.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to eliminate mixed-sex accommodation in the NHS. [205266]

Ann Keen: "The NHS in England: The Operating Framework for 2008-09", requires primary care trusts to review their current situation and agree, publish and implement stretching local plans for improvement in

delivering single sex accommodation, with identified timescales and monitoring mechanisms. The Framework specifically requires that patient survey results, where available, be used as the monitoring mechanism. Copies of the Framework are available in the Library.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what hospital inspections have taken place in Merseyside to ensure compliance with the hygiene code since 2006; on what dates such inspections were conducted; and if he will make a statement. [204937]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to implement the Rapid Review Panel recommendations on healthcare technologies capable of reducing healthcare-acquired infection into clinical practice at trust level; what budget has been allocated for this purpose; and how uptake of such technologies will be monitored. [204116]

Ann Keen: A wide range of new programmes is being implemented to support the Rapid Review Panel as a consequence of the Healthcare Associated Infection Technology Innovation Programme launched in the Clean, safe care strategy (January 2008). Copies of the strategy are available in the Library. Technologies with a Rapid Review Panel recommendation 1 are being placed in showcase hospitals around the country for periods up to six months for the purpose of evaluating in-use features and providing feedback to the national health service in the form of ready made adoption business cases. Such technologies are also subject to an accelerated placement in the NHS supply chain catalogue.

The budget for the first phase is still being finalised as discussions with suppliers are ongoing but indicative costs for the purchase of technologies are estimated to be £1.4 million and the cost of providing local NHS expertise to manage the projects at the hospitals is £700,000 for a 12 month period.

Uptake will be reviewed through information provided by the NHS supply chain where this is appropriate. Plans are also being developed to provide support to technologies that have Rapid Review Panel 2 and 3 recommendations.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many product assessments the Rapid Review Panel has undertaken since December 2003; how many assessed products were recommended to his Department for use *(a)* in the NHS and *(b)* by the NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency; and how many products in use by the NHS were recommended by the panel. [205204]

Dawn Primarolo: The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) has undertaken 207 assessments since its first meeting.

Seven products have demonstrated sufficient basic research and development, validation and recent in use evaluations to enable the RRP to make a recommendation to the Department that the product should be made available to national health service bodies. This is a recommendation one.

Of the seven products given a recommendation one, six products have been made available to the NHS by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency via the NHS Supply Chain and are contained in their product supply catalogue.

The Department does not have full information on the use of these three recommendation one products as infection control products do not have to be purchased through NHS Supply Chain. NHS trusts are free to choose which products to purchase and will maintain their own records.

The NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency does not recommend particular products.

Oral Cancer: East of England

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what resources he plans to allocate to the East of England region to provide training for dentists in detecting the early signs of oral cancers in the next three years; [205399]

(2) what in-service training in the detection of oral cancers for dentists in the East of England region his Department is funding in 2008-09. [205400]

Ann Keen: Postgraduate dental deans determine priorities for the continuing education and training of dentists within block allocations made by the Department. However, as the diagnosis of oral cancer is included in the curriculum for the basic training of dental undergraduates in accordance with the 'First Five Years' published by the General Dental Council, specific courses on detection and diagnosis are not routinely included in postgraduate training programmes. However, we understand it is the policy of the postgraduate dental deanery for the east of England to include and update training in the detection of oral cancer in relevant training programmes for groups of dentists like vocational dental trainees. The deanery also makes available copies of the distance learning programme 'Early Detection and Prevention of Oral Cancer' funded by the Department and published in 2007.

Organs: Donors

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of viable human organs available under the NHS Organ Donor Register that were not used for a transplant operation in each year since 1997. [204475]

Ann Keen: The following table provides the number of viable human organs procured by organ, that were not used for a transplant operation, in each year since 1997. This includes those organs not used for administrative or recipient reasons. It does not include those organs considered not viable for reasons of the donor or the organ itself.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Kidneys	—	1	3	—	8	9	6	12	8	4	8
Pancreata	—	—	—	2	4	—	2	8	3	1	7
Lungs	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	2	3	3
Hearts	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Livers	1	—	3	6	5	6	8	4	2	7	5
Total	2	1	7	10	17	15	16	26	16	16	23

Ovarian Cancer: Screening

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's policy is on detection of and screening for ovarian cancer; and what the criteria are for deciding when to start screenings. [205298]

Ann Keen: The Government will introduce ovarian cancer screening as and when research demonstrates that screening saves lives and is cost-effective. The UK National Screening Committee is advising us on this issue and we are keeping it under review.

A research study, the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening, jointly funded by the Department, the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK, is under way looking at two possible techniques for screening for ovarian cancer and is due to report in 2010, with full results not expected before 2012.

Spinal Injuries: Health Services

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what support is available for people with spinal cord injuries and their families; [205299]

(2) what steps are being taken to improve the Spinal Cord Injury Service. [205300]

Ann Keen: Those with spinal injuries are able to access the full range of health and social care, including specialised treatment and rehabilitation services in a dedicated spinal injury unit where appropriate.

We are not aware of any specific steps being taken to improve services for those with spinal cord injuries.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airports: Customs Officers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Border and Immigration Agency staff on average were on duty each day after 10.00 pm at *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Coventry, *(c)* Luton, *(d)* East Midlands and *(e)* Doncaster airport in the last 12 months. [194542]

Mr. Byrne: This information cannot be disclosed as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent immigration controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of immigration offences.

Asylum

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on costs to local authorities arising from the Border and Immigration Agency's Case Resolution Programme. [204185]

Mr. Byrne: There have been frequent ongoing discussions between the UK Border Agency and the Department for Communities and Local Government over the management of work to resolve the backlog of asylum cases on stakeholders, including local authorities.

Borders: Personal Records

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide a breakdown by offence of the arrests made under Project Semaphore of the e-Borders programme. [203607]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* Alerts issued by e-Borders have resulted in over 1,700 arrests. A breakdown of arrests by offence is as follows:

Offence type	*Number over period January 2005 to March 2008*
Murder	18
Kidnapping	6
Rape	7
Sexual offences	49
Missing person found	0
Registered sex offender	8
Deserter from armed forces	1
Threatening behaviour	14
Harassment	10
Threats to kill	6
Violence against the person	77
Assault	110
Robbery	31
Burglary	38
Theft	82
Handling stolen goods	63
Criminal damage	29
Rioting	6
Offensive weapons/firearms	20
Road traffic offences	176
Drink driving	3
Arson	2
Fraud	66
Deception	28
Blackmail	1
Perverting the course of justice	6
Breach of court order	157
Prison absconder	7
Recall to prison	22
Failure to attend court	132
Bail offences	271

Offence type	Number over period January 2005 to March 2008
Non-payment of fines	154
Obstruction of police at court	1
Money laundering	35
Drug offences	60
Bigamy	1
Breach of the peace	2
Deserting the army	7
Copyright offences	1
Prostitution	1
Bankruptcy	1
Travelling on lost/stolen/cancelled passport	1
Fraudulently obtained document	1
Previous adverse immigration history/RLE	3
Facilitator	5
Total	1,749

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide a breakdown by category of the alerts raised under Project Semaphore of the e-Borders programme. [203608]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* Alerts issued by e-Borders are now in excess of 23,000. A breakdown of alert categories is listed as follows:

	Alerts
Police	10,438
HMRC (HMRC Detection now part of UK Border Agency)	2,218
Border and Immigration Agency (now UK Border Agency)	10,156
UKvisas (now part of UK Border Agency)	573

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which high-risk countries travellers are subject to compulsory watch-list checks under the e-Borders programme. [203942]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* E-Borders currently receives data on 30 million passengers' movements per annum from 102 carriers serving 182 non-UK departure points. We cannot disclose greater detail of these routes as it could potentially prejudice our ability to maintain the integrity of the control.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce its energy consumption in the last 12 months; and what her Department's expenditure on energy was in *(a)* the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available and *(b)* the immediately preceding 12 months. [201740]

Mr. Byrne: Over the last 12 months the Home Office has reduced energy consumption in our London headquarters by shortening the operating hours of its cooling and heating plant and shortening the switch on periods of the motion detector lighting. Across the UK Borders Agency estate low voltage lighting has replaced less efficient halogen lighting and modifications to fans and pumps to reduce the electrical load have been made.

The table provides figures on energy expenditure on the Home Office estate (excluding the public sector prisons estate now part of the Ministry of Justice) between 2005-06 and 2006-07, the latest years for which data is available. The increase in costs from 2005-06 to 2006-07 is the product of a lower level of consumption and a higher cost of energy. which data is available. The increase in costs from 2005-06 to 2006-07 is the product of a lower level of consumption and a higher cost of energy.

	Total energy spend £ (includes gas, electricity, oil)
2006-07	7,631,968
2005-06	7,187,353

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent in severance pay to special advisers in each year since 1997. [200500]

Mr. Byrne: A total of £330,498.00 has been spent in severance pay to special advisers in each since 1997. It is not possible to break this down by year without disclosing the amounts individuals received.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue was generated by each *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870 telephone code used for customer inquiry lines by her Department's agencies in each of the last five years. [183956]

Mr. Byrne: Figures relating to the revenue generated by each of the 0845 and 0870 numbers used for customer inquiry lines by the Home Office are not held centrally. As such it is not possible to answer this question within the time and cost limits of the PQ process.

Entry Clearances

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to update the training programmes for staff assessing visa applications. [204278]

Mr. Byrne: Training programmes for entry clearance officers and managers are kept under constant review. The structure and content are regularly updated to reflect any changes in immigration legislation or policy.

Foreigners

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of foreign nationals were counted *(a)* in and *(b)* out of the UK under the border and immigration system in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [203606]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* During 2007, the e-Borders system received data from over 500 high risk routes, with annualised passenger figures of greater than 35 million, of which 15.4 million (44 per cent.) were foreign nationals (defined as non EEA nationals.)

Data extrapolations for 2006 are currently not available in this format.

Frontiers: Security

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions her Department has had with the Irish Government on the introduction of the e-Borders system in Great Britain; and what the outcome of those discussions was; [168404]

(2) what account has been taken of the implications of co-operation with the Government of the Republic of Ireland for the functioning of an E-borders system around Great Britain; and what the likely effects are of such a system on the common travel area. [168437]

Mr. Byrne: We continue to work closely with the Government of the Republic of Ireland on operational, policy and legislative issues, including on the implementation of the e-Borders programme which is a key part of the Government's plans for securing our borders.

As outlined in our 'Securing the UK Border' strategy, March 2007, we are, in collaboration with the Irish government, reviewing the rules and operation of the CTA (common travel area) to explore how mutual border security can be strengthened. The results of that review will be announced in due course.

There is provision in the e-Borders contract for the supplier to provide data on passengers travelling from the Republic of Ireland to the UK although no decision has been made on how it will be captured because of the nature of CTA.

Immigration: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 806W, on Immigration: Housing, how many private sector providers have transferred existing properties to the private rented market; how many such units have been transferred; and what incentives have been offered to such private sector providers. [196266]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The issue of whether a private sector provider has transferred existing properties to the private rented market, and the number of these, is a commercial matter for the provider concerned. The UK Border Agency has provided no incentives for providers to do this, although we have encouraged our private sector providers to co-operate with the programme, principally by allowing existing properties to transfer to the private rented market.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Border and Immigration Agency will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 28 March, reference B12293/8. [203827]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 24 April 2008.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Storms

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times he has met the Foreign Secretary to discuss the Government's emergency relief aid response to Burma following Cyclone Nargis; and if he will make a statement. [206333]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Foreign Secretary and I are in regular contact to discuss the crisis in Burma following Cyclone Nargis.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which sections within his Department are responsible for co-ordinating the Government's emergency relief aid response to Burma following Cyclone Nargis; and if he will make a statement. [206334]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department is responsible for co-ordinating the UK's emergency relief response to Burma following Cyclone Nargis.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the countries and organisations that supplied one aircraft or more carrying emergency relief aid to Burma in the first 10 days following Cyclone Nargis; and if he will make a statement. [206348]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is co-ordinating air relief efforts. According to WFP, as of 12 May, 35 flights carrying emergency relief had arrived in Burma since the cyclone hit. Since then the rate of arrival has been increasing: there were 23 flights scheduled for 14 May. The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold full information on the countries and organisations which supplied these aircraft.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204392]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In the last 12 months, Ministers in this Department have visited *(a)* Scotland once and *(b)* Wales once in their official capacities. No visits have been made to Northern Ireland during this period. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

I also travel frequently to and from Scotland in my capacity as MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire South. On a number of these occasions I have undertaken visits to DFID's office in East Kilbride.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department since 1997. [204764]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development has made 14 general statutory instruments since 1997, none of which has been revoked.

The information has been provided by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI).

Disaster Relief

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which natural disasters the Government has responded with the supply of emergency relief aid in the last 10 years; how much aid was supplied in each case in terms of *(a)* weight and *(b)* value; and if he will make a statement. [206335]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: My Department is unable to answer this question because of the disproportionate cost this would incur.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service: Voluntary Organisations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he plans to involve the voluntary sector in the provision of bail accommodation in England and Wales; [205344]

(2) what the average size is of each hostel provided by ClearSprings for the accommodation of bailees in England and Wales; [205345]

(3) how many bail units have been opened by ClearSprings in England and Wales since the contract was made with them; [205347]

(4) for how long the contract with ClearSprings to provide bail accommodation lasts; [205348]

(5) when the contract to provide bail accommodation in England and Wales was awarded to ClearSprings; [205350]

(6) when *(a)* the police and *(b)* the Probation Service were informed of the (i) location and (ii) opening date of each of the new bail hostels operated by ClearSprings; and if he will make a statement. [205357]

Mr. Straw: The range of support services provided by ClearSprings Management Ltd. includes referral in some cases to relevant voluntary sector organisations to ensure appropriate support for service users. Voluntary sector organisations were free to bid for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service and some did so. Voluntary sector organisations are involved in providing housing advice to prisoners including those who may be bailed.

ClearSprings does not provide hostels. The service provides rented housing for those on bail and for offenders released from prison on Home Detention Curfew, with a maximum of five sharing. The average is between three and four bedrooms.

167 houses have been made available. A small number have been withdrawn and at 2 May there were 157 houses available to the service.

The contract with ClearSprings is for three years with options for two one-year extensions.

The contract was awarded on 18 June 2007 and announced to Parliament.

It is a duty of the contract for ClearSpings to consult the police, probation service and local authority. It is not possible to provide details of consultation for all 157 properties.

Criminal Justice Act 1988

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for an offence under section 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1996 in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the maximum sentence of two years imprisonment was imposed; [205373]

(2) how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for an offence under (i) section 141A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and (ii) section 1 of the Knives Act 1997 in each of the last 10 years. [205374]

Mr. Straw: Data showing the number of people proceeded against and convicted of offences under sections 139, 139A, 141 and 141A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and section 1 of the Knives Act 1997 are in the table below. The number of people who received the maximum two year sentence under sections 139 and 139A(1) and the maximum four year sentence for section 139A(2) is also shown in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of people proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for selected knife offences[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against									
Statute	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Section 139 of Criminal Justice Act 1988[6]	4,466	4,867	4,556	4,606	5,798	6,941	6,903	7,313	7,277	7,654
Section 139A of Criminal Justice Act 1988[6]	31	36	28	32	43	43	45	67	77	93
Section 1 of the Knives Act 1997[8]	1	3	5	3	2	5	3	2	4	1
Section 141 of Criminal justice Act 1988[9]	8	10	5	7	11	6	8	18	14	6
Section 141A of Criminal justice Act 1988[10]	2	2	3	—	9	11	17	11	29	63

	Found guilty									
Statute	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Section 139 of Criminal Justice Act 1988[6]	3,341	3,788	3,538	3,513	4,338	5,319	5,367	5,853	5,961	6,320
Section 139A of Criminal Justice Act 1988[6]	35	31	29	29	41	36	43	77	73	85
Section 1 of the Knives Act 1997[8]	1	2	—	2	—	3	—	1	1	1
Section 141 of Criminal justice Act 1988[9]	4	10	3	1	5	5	4	12	10	4
Section 141A of Criminal justice Act 1988[10]	2	2	2	—	8	10	17	9	26	51

	Given the maximum sentence of two[11] years.									
Statute	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Section 139 of Criminal Justice Act 1988[6]	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1
Section 139A of Criminal Justice Act 1988[7]	1[11]	—	1[11]	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Following investigations, data from 1999 to 2004 for the offence "having an article with blade or point on school premises" for West Mercia PFA are deemed to have been coded incorrectly. These data are now included within the offence "Having an article with blade or point in a public place".
[2] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] The number of people found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates' court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendants was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.
[6] Includes "Having an article with blade or point in a public place."
[7] Includes "Having a blade or point on school premises" and "Possession of offensive weapons on school premises without lawful authority or reasonable excuse".
[8] Includes "Unlawful marketing of knives - Selling or hiring"; "Unlawful marketing of knives—Offers or exposes to sell or hire" and "Unlawful marketing of knives—has in possession for purpose of sale or hire".
[9] includes "Manufacture, importation and sale of certain offensive weapons".
[10] includes "Selling to a person under 18 a knife, knife blade, razor blade, axe or any other article which has a blade, that is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person".
[11] The maximum sentence for "Possession of offensive weapons on school premises without lawful authority or reasonable excuse" Section 139A(2) and 5(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, is four years. The two instances(in 1997 and 1999) in the above table are where a four year sentence has been given.
Source: Criminal Evidence and Analysis - OCJR

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1921-22W, on departmental manpower, how many of the employees under 18 years of age are receiving at least one day's training per week. [204934]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice encourages learning and development opportunities for all staff regardless of age. In line with the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 there is no specific age-related training for staff under the age of 18. All staff receive training to support them in undertaking their day to day duties as well as having access to classroom based courses and alternative learning and development solutions as required.

Prison Service: Recruitment

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans the Government have to increase levels of recruitment of prison officers. [205535]

Mr. Hanson: Action has been taken recently to respond to the substantial increase in demand for prison officers, generated in particular by the National Offender Management Service's prison capacity building programme. A national prison officer recruitment campaign started on 7 January. It employed a major national advertising campaign, aimed at attracting a much wider range of applicants than had been achieved previously. It also created a new recruitment process, which reducing the time between application and appointment, introduced online application and sifting; and enabled more comprehensive information to be generated, on which to base selection decisions. Over 41,000 applications have been received to date.

Prison Service: Safety

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government are taking to ensure the safety of prison staff. [205533]

Mr. Hanson: HM Prison Service has an overarching health and safety policy statement, signed by Phil Wheatley, Deputy General of the National Offender Management Service, with other topic specific policy/ guidance (e.g. risk assessment, moving and handling) issued in support of this. Each prison governor is responsible for ensuring a system is in place within their prison for effectively managing health and safety, which includes a comprehensive health and safety policy, which complies with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974 to ensure the health and safety of staff and others who may be affected by the Service's activities.

Health and safety is a management activity undertaken by all staff. The same health and safety policy and guidance applies to the private sector prisons.

Prison Service: Sick Leave

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) *(a)* how many working days were lost to sickness, *(b)* what the average number of working days per staff member lost to sickness was and *(c)* what percentage of days lost to sickness was attributed to stress-related conditions for (i) HM Prison Service staff and (ii) other departmental staff in each of the last five years; [195018]

(2) when he plans to answer question 195018 on staff sickness, tabled on 13 March 2008. [206480]

Mr. Hanson: I replied to the hon. Member for Eastleigh's question on 26 March 2008. Unfortunately it appears that it was not included in the *Official Report* that day. The answer to the original question is as follows.

The information is in the following tables and is derived from the Cabinet Office published report on sickness absence. There is no clear medical definition of stress and figures for the Ministry of Justice include all conditions relating to mental and behavioural disorders, a proportion of which will have a stress element. Information for the Office of Criminal Justice Reform and National Offender Management Service, which now forms part of the Ministry of Justice, is being provided in a separate Home Office response.

Table 1: Total and average working days per staff member lost to sickness in the Ministry of Justice's agencies in each of the last five years

Agency	*Sick days*	*Average staff in post*	*Average sick days*
2003			
Former DCA HQ	16,227	2,114	7.7
Office of the Public Guardian	3,626	294	12.3
Tribunals Service	13,616	1,075.3	12.7
Court Service	94,701	8,671	10.9
HM Prison Service	635,304	46,785	13.6
2004			
Former DCA HQ	17,185.3	2,352.95	7.3
Office of the Public Guardian	2,825.5	316.64	8.9
Tribunals Service	13,145.3	1,079.49	12.2
Court Service	91,002	8,843.33	10.3
HM Prison Service	606,589	48,385	12.5
2005			
Former DCA HQ	14,972.8	2,184.65	6.9
Office of the Public Guardian	3,277.5	340	9.6
Tribunals Service	13,595	1,196.83	11.4
Court Service	142,075.5	12,934.16	11
HM Prison Service	603,687	48,429	12.5
2006			
Former DCA HQ	16,835.2	2,196.06	7.7
Office of the Public Guardian	3,437.5	342.42	10
Tribunals Service	31,228.5	2,770.67	11.3
Court Service	224,397.9	20,029.9	11.2
HM Prison Service	564,902	49,049	11.5
2007			
Former DCA HQ	14,718	2,266.17	6.5
Office of the Public Guardian	2,642	310.3	8.5
Tribunals Service	25,189.5	2,848.4	8.8
Court Service	183,214.5	19,342.9	9.5
HM Prison Service	598,868	50,085	12

Table 2: Total and average working days lost and proportion attributed to mental and behavioural disorders in public sector Prison Service, 2003 to 2007

	Mental and behavioural WDL	*Percentage of days lost to sickness due to mental and behavioural disorder*
2003	157,960	24.86
2004	155,103	25.57
2005	146,335	24.24
2006	129,421	22.91
2007	135,252	22.58

Table 3: Total and average working days lost and proportion attributed to mental and behavioural disorders in private sector Prison Service contracted estates

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
(a) Working days lost to sickness					
Altcourse	7,354	5,798	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ashfield	2,937	4,229	3,704	2,810	n/a
Bronzefield	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	[1]—
Doncaster	350	478	519	n/a	n/a
Dovegate	5,494	4,494	5,775	n/a	n/a
Forest Bank	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Lowdham Grange	1,695	1,467	1,883	1,736	1,737
Parc	4271	4867	4,271	n/a	n/a
Peterborough	n/s	n/s	n/s	[1]—	[1]—
Rye Hill	4,468	4,140	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wolds	2,833	1,996	1,064	1,145	n/a
Total	29,402	26,469	17,216	5,691	1,737
(b) Average number of working days per staff member lost to sickness					
Altcourse	14.88	13.12	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ashfield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bronzefield	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	[1]—
Doncaster	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dovegate	11.00	10.00	12.00	n/a	n/a
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	—
Lowdham Grange	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Parc	13.15	13.35	10.55	n/a	n/a
Peterborough	n/s	n/s	n/s	[1]—	[1]—
Rye Hill	16.62	17.69	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wolds	13.50	9.68	6.60	7.20	n/a
Total	12.40	11.50	8.80	6.60	6.00
(c) Percentage of sick days lost to stress related illness.					
Total	12.72	18.56	11.35	19.00	19.00

n/s = Not supplied by the contractor within the time scale given. Information may become available at later date.
n/a = Data are not available due to archiving and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
[1] Not open

Note:
Information has been provided for two of the eleven contracted prisons Lowdham Grange and Parc. Due to the varying reporting systems across the contracted prison estate, data relating to stress related illnesses is not recorded at all establishments.

Table 4: Total and average working days lost and proportion attributed to mental and behavioural disorders in former Department for Constitutional Affairs

	Total days lost	Proportion lost to mental disorders (percentage)
Magistrates Court Committee	106,438	19
HM Courts Service	60,911	17
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs	9,689	14
Tribunal Service	7,681	13
Office of the Public Guardian	1,066	38
Scotland Office	121	0
Wales Office	95	6

Table 4: Total and average working days lost and proportion attributed to mental and behavioural disorders in former Department for Constitutional Affairs

	Total days lost	Proportion lost to mental disorders (percentage)
National Offender Management Service	11,135	20
Office of Criminal Justice Reform	1,347	29

Note:
The Cabinet Office published a report on sickness absence in the civil service on 7 February 2008. The report included an analysis of the days lost due to sickness absence for each Department by reasons for absence. The following table sets out the figures for 2006-07 for the constituent parts of this Department, which were in place prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007. Information on the reasons for sickness absence prior to 2006-07 for the former Department for Constitutional Affairs is not readily available.

Prison Service: Working Conditions

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government are taking to improve conditions of work for prison staff. [205536]

Mr. Hanson: Workforce modernisation formed a recommendation in Lord Carter's report 'Securing the Future.' The Workforce Modernisation Programme was formed to focus on developing new pay and grading for all staff working in National Offender Management Service and new workforce structures for all staff working in prison. New pay and grading structures will be underpinned by the new Job Evaluation System to ensure that pay and reward is fair across our different staffing groups. However, development of the different projects shaping aspects of the programme are in their early stages and no decisions have been made on whether changes to terms and conditions will be required.

Prisoners: Suicide

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many women committed suicide while in prison and *(a)* on and *(b)* not on suicide watch in each of the last 10 years; [205525]

(2) how many men aged 18 to 25 years committed suicide while in prison and *(a)* on and *(b)* not on suicide watch in each of the last 10 years; [205526]

(3) how many men committed suicide while in prison and *(a)* on and *(b)* not on suicide watch in each of the last 10 years; [205527]

(4) how many people committed suicide in prison while *(a)* on and *(b)* not on suicide watch in each of the last 10 years; [205560]

(5) how many people committed suicide in custody in each of the last 10 years; [205561]

(6) how many women aged 18 to 25 years committed suicide while in prison and *(a)* on and *(b)* not on suicide watch in each of the last 10 years. [205564]

Mr. Hanson: The term 'suicide watch' is not employed in National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

However, any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm will be cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. ACCT is the prisoner-centred flexible care-planning system introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of health during 2005-07 to replace the old F2052SH system. All at-risk prisoners are subject to a minimum required frequency of staff supervision (conversations and observations) set by an individual case review. Such frequency can vary widely between different at-risk prisoners depending on the level of risk and the needs of the distressed individual.

The following tables provide a response to the questions based on the use of ACCT or F2052SH at-risk care plans.

Table 1: Annual numbers of self-inflicted deaths[1] in prison between 1998 and 2007 with and without at-risk care plans

	Not on care plans	*On care plans*	*Total self-inflicted deaths[1]*
1998	57	26	83
1999	75	16	91
2000	57	24	81
2001	51	22	73
2002	72	23	95
2003	67	27	94
2004	76	19	95
2005	53	25	78
2006	51	16	67
2007	69	23	92

Table 2: Annual numbers of self-inflicted deaths[1] in prison between 1998 and 2007 with and without at-risk care plans, split by age and gender

	Male		*Female*		*Male and female*	
	Not on care plan	*On care plan*	*Not on care plan*	*On care plan*	*Total not on care plan*	*Total on care plan*
18 to 25 years						
1998	14	7	0	0	14	7
1999	26	2	1	1	27	3
2000	15	8	4	2	19	10
2001	13	3	1	3	14	6
2002	22	2	3	0	25	2
2003	16	4	3	5	19	9
2004	11	6	3	1	14	7
2005	17	4	0	1	17	5
2006	4	1	1	0	5	1
2007	15	5	1	1	16	6
>25 years						
1998	41	15	0	3	41	18
1999	45	11	2	1	47	12
2000	34	13	1	1	35	14
2001	35	13	1	1	36	14
2002	43	17	3	3	46	20
2003	46	14	2	4	48	18
2004	56	9	6	3	62	12
2005	34	17	1	2	35	19
2006	46	13	0	2	46	15
2007	48	15	4	2	52	17

[1] NOMS definition of prisoner self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people from Leicester committed suicide while in prison and *(a)* on and *(b)* not on suicide watch in each of the last 10 years. [205562]

Mr. Hanson: The location of where prisoners originate from is not recorded centrally. To verify home address information (which would not necessarily reflect where the prisoner was from and in some cases would be 'no fixed abode') would involve contacting each individual prison and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures are in place to prevent suicide in prisons. [205563]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service has a prisoner suicide prevention strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all who live and work in prisons. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, drugs, resettlement, leadership and training.

A revised strategy was published in October 2007. This builds on several years of learning from the experiences of prisoners, staff, investigators, inspectors and others, and aims to embed improved suicide prevention and self-harm management methods of working in all areas of prison life. The strategy further develops cross-agency information flows, and reflects long-standing areas of safer custody work such as

Listener and Insider peer supporters, local Suicide Prevention Co-ordinators and working with outside organisations.

It also incorporates Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT), the care-planning system for prisoners at-risk of suicide or self-harm, introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005-07. The key benefits of ACCT include a faster first response, engagement with the prisoner, and the provision of flexible, individual and accountable care. It is supported by improved staff training in assessing and understanding at-risk prisoners.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government are taking to reduce overcrowding in prisons. [205537]

Mr. Straw: In December 2007 the Government announced their response to Lord Carter of Coles' report on prisons, including measures to both increase the supply of prison places and reduce the demand for them.

The Government are committed to increasing prison capacity by providing an additional 10,500 places, on top of their previously announced 9,500 place building programme, with the aim of achieving overall capacity of 96,000 places by 2014.

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act will give effect to measures recommended by Lord Carter to reduce the demand for prison places. These will start to have an impact later this year.

The measures we are taking will ease the pressure on the prison estate. No prison will be expected to operate at a level of crowding beyond that agreed by the Prison Service area manager (or the Regional Offender Manager, in the case of a contracted prison).

PRIME MINISTER

Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Prime Minister who the members are of the Committee on Honours, Decorations and Medals; to what role each was appointed; what relevant experience each has; how long each has served on the Committee; for what period the appointment of each runs; and if he will make a statement. [203505]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

Secretariat support for the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals is provided by the Ceremonial Secretariat based in the Cabinet Office. The cost of the secretariat is accounted for in the departmental report and accounts.

The committee is made up of the following members:

Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service (Chair)

Private Secretary to The Sovereign

Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence

Defence Services Secretary

Permanent Secretary Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Permanent Secretary, Home Office

Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood

Ceremonial Officer of the Cabinet Office (Secretary).

All members of the committee have extensive careers in public administration and/or as members of the armed forces or the diplomatic service. As the posts are ex officio, members serve on the committee while they hold their current posts.

It is established practice not to disclose the details of internal discussion and advice.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much aviation fuel she estimates has been used in the UK in each year from 1997 to date. [206171]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Aviation fuel consumption in the UK for each year from 1997 to 2006 is shown in the table as follows.

	All aviation fuels (million tonnes)
1997	8.45
1998	9.28
1999	9.98
2000	10.86
2001	10.67
2002	10.57
2003	10.81
2004	11.69
2005	12.55
2006	12.69

Note:
Aviation fuels = aviation turbine fuel and aviation spirit.
Source:
Transport Statistics Great Britain, Table 3.1

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Correspondence

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the number of posted items received by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each year since 2001. [206286]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The estimated number of postal items received at Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency since the year 2001 is as follows.

	Million
2001	15.7
2002	17.1
2003	20.6
2004	23.1
2005	19.1
2006	18.9

	Million
2007	19.2
2008	6.7 (to date)

Lorries: Axle Weights

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* UK registered and *(b)* non-UK registered vehicles have been check-weighed since 2003. [206046]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 2003, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has check-weighed 169,848 UK-registered vehicles and 42,907 non-UK registered vehicles.

These figures can be broken down into the following:

	UK			*Non-UK*	
	HGV	*PSV*	*[1]LGV*	*HGV*	*PSV*
2007-08	15,267	257	6,237	10,165	112
2006-07	15,380	157	6,050	9,891	50
2005-06	26,802	183	9,033	8,110	97
2004-05	31,082	276	8,821	7,935	67
2003-04	41,731	264	8,308	6,401	79

[1] VOSA does not differentiate LGV weighings between UK and non-UK, since there are very few of the latter.

Lorries: Road Traffic Offences

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicle prohibitions for reasons relating to *(a)* overweight, *(b)* driver's hours, *(c)* mechanical defects and *(d)* accidents have been recorded since 2003. [206045]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) figures are as follows:

	HGV	*PSV*	*LGV*	*Total*
2007-08				
Overweight	7,709	36	4,171	11,916
Drivers' hours	14,840	1,489	—	16,329
Mechanical all[1]	34,094	2,853	17,659	54,606
Accidents	—	—	—	218
2006-07				
Overweight	5,945	35	3,335	9,315
Drivers' hours	11,277	531	—	11,808
Mechanical all	33,295	3,777	21,534	58,606
Accidents	—	—	—	370
2005-06				
Overweight	4,932	26	3,493	8,451
Drivers' hours	10,585	513	—	11,098
Mechanical all	26,729	3,240	23,812	53,781
Accidents	—	—	—	453
2004-05				
Overweight	4,080	24	2,691	6,795
Drivers' hours	8,671	478	—	9,149
Mechanical all	25,841	3,415	19,458	48,714
Accidents	—	—	—	438
2003-04				
Overweight	3,785	17	2,074	5,876
Drivers' hours	6,918	386	—	7,304
Mechanical all	24,022	3,780	14,811	42,613
Accidents	—	—	—	463

[1]For 2007-08 figures for mechanical defects are not yet finalised. Those shown are provisional ones.

Railways: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the merits of amending the national conditions of carriage for train operating companies to ban the drinking from, and carrying of, open containers of alcohol by passengers. [204944]

Mr. Tom Harris: Train companies can already ban alcohol from trains using their powers under the railway byelaws. The byelaws also permit train companies and the police to remove disorderly passengers from trains and stations as well as prosecute for antisocial behaviour.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will set out in tabular form the payments expected to be *(a)* made to and *(b)* received from each train operating company for each year of its franchise from 1997 to 2015, giving the total net cost to the public purse of all franchises for each in this period. [206172]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is available from a number of sources, including the Strategic Rail Authority's historic annual report and accounts; the Department for Transport's website at www.dft.gsi.gov.uk: and National Rail Trends, the figures for which can be found on the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1528

I will arrange for composite tables to be prepared and place copies in the Library of the House.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* personal injury accidents and *(b)* personal injury accidents involving at least one heavy goods vehicle there were on each motorway in each year since 1997. [205106]

Mr. Tom Harris: The total number of road traffic accidents that have resulted in personal injury (PIAs) and the number involving at least one heavy goods vehicle (HGV), (that is, a vehicle over 3.5 tonnes gross weight), in each year since 1997, are listed in the following tables. The statistics include all motorways that are the responsibility of the Highways Agency.

Table 1a: All injury accidents on motorways (M) by year

'M'	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
1	1,174	1,212	1,331	1,484	1,356	1,430	1,403	1,351	1,333	1,146	13,220
2	68	58	67	62	66	69	91	104	90	89	764
3	237	258	268	277	254	265	273	296	239	288	2,655
4	610	612	620	677	615	587	604	594	506	570	5,995
5	448	459	492	444	467	465	504	513	493	441	4,726
6	1,270	1,247	1,179	1,252	1,074	1,058	993	1,122	1,017	961	11,173
10	3	1	3	3	4	5	4	8	3	11	45
11	170	162	159	191	198	155	162	181	161	184	1,723
18	51	54	52	26	49	57	59	52	52	59	511
20	135	136	162	188	205	180	189	203	207	210	1,815
23	91	98	101	80	91	86	96	82	111	79	915
25	1,132	1,021	1,110	1,242	1,252	1,227	1,136	1,239	1,254	1,083	11,696
26	7	13	10	21	17	17	18	16	23	15	157
27	162	200	169	191	155	218	190	195	142	153	1,775
40	284	303	321	333	331	314	277	277	308	337	3,085
42	177	152	161	146	157	169	117	152	114	93	1,438
45	2	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	1	5	15
48	0	1	3	2	4	3	2	1	3	1	20
49	1	1	3	1	3	5	3	5	2	1	25
50	17	13	18	16	11	12	15	18	13	10	143
53	80	84	78	88	73	92	68	89	62	68	782
54	20	25	30	33	26	24	30	28	42	33	291
55	29	32	21	35	36	36	38	29	30	35	321
56	140	155	144	143	131	137	139	147	134	169	1,439
57	46	45	55	36	32	37	30	42	28	32	383
58	27	28	29	17	19	23	13	15	20	21	212
60	0	219	278	277	271	239	233	245	221	245	2,228
61	98	95	114	89	126	107	106	125	120	122	1,102
62	616	511	477	496	417	411	482	433	431	411	4,685
65	18	48	40	34	48	53	70	56	59	45	471
66	36	37	27	25	31	33	31	26	25	26	297
67	26	19	19	21	15	14	12	10	14	20	170
69	24	39	28	33	36	53	42	54	43	34	386
180	29	23	32	34	29	30	53	35	31	36	332
181	0	3	0	2	5	4	2	9	0	2	27
271	20	21	19	22	32	37	29	26	21	19	246
602	28	41	33	25	23	17	25	28	25	30	275
606	18	15	17	21	19	16	15	12	18	18	169
621	19	29	45	48	48	45	36	35	38	54	397
Total	7,313	7,470	7,716	8,119	7,727	7,731	7,590	7,853	7,434	7,156	76,109

Table 1b: All injury accidents on A(M) roads by year

'A (M)'	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
1	238	249	250	280	288	219	189	158	201	282	2,354
3	13	15	13	22	25	17	18	2	1	1	127
38	5	3	3	9	6	8	5	6	3	5	53
66	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	5	5	16
74	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	6
194	18	11	14	13	9	10	8	9	10	12	114
308	11	6	10	4	8	10	5	3	0	1	58
404	10	9	12	8	11	6	6	10	4	5	81
627	21	50	27	37	21	10	26	21	19	12	244
Total	316	344	329	373	372	281	260	212	243	323	3,053

Table 2a: All injury accidents (involving at least 1 HGV) on motorways (M) by year

'M'	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
1	317	316	376	444	365	427	387	407	386	356	3,781
2	23	15	11	7	15	10	21	23	13	13	151

Table 2a: All injury accidents (involving at least 1 HGV) on motorways (M) by year

'M'	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
3	36	45	50	45	41	38	52	49	43	42	441
4	96	116	127	135	125	122	117	111	100	103	1,152
5	91	101	123	93	114	119	109	89	115	97	1,051
6	392	388	412	438	396	325	349	406	361	351	3,818
10	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	4	0	1	10
11	38	43	38	41	43	38	39	51	40	47	418
18	10	15	22	8	16	18	18	12	14	17	150
20	45	51	54	77	85	70	81	99	68	74	704
23	6	12	12	5	6	15	7	4	9	4	80
25	339	318	351	438	418	431	417	426	479	397	4,014
26	3	6	4	6	6	3	11	6	7	6	58
27	20	39	27	37	17	36	28	18	19	15	256
40	63	69	90	90	95	84	75	73	98	102	839
42	51	38	39	46	45	54	35	50	35	25	418
45	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
48	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	5
49	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	5
50	6	4	11	1	5	1	4	6	3	3	44
53	6	9	11	7	4	5	4	8	9	8	71
54	5	8	11	2	1	6	8	3	8	3	55
55	2	2	4	2	2	1	3	1	4	5	26
56	13	30	30	30	24	29	26	22	32	32	268
57	5	4	8	7	8	9	4	5	7	3	60
58	7	3	7	3	1	2	0	1	4	1	29
60	0	51	83	63	81	51	74	56	59	67	585
61	20	15	27	16	25	23	20	21	24	18	209
62	155	161	135	135	103	113	140	150	107	108	1,307
65	1	7	7	4	10	9	10	7	5	8	68
66	9	8	8	7	7	4	3	1	0	5	52
67	5	6	4	0	5	2	1	2	1	4	30
69	5	6	4	4	7	4	5	12	5	3	55
180	13	6	9	11	8	8	12	12	9	12	100
181	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	1	8
271	4	0	6	5	6	6	4	4	1	2	38
602	3	3	4	4	2	3	3	1	2	1	26
606	1	1	6	0	2	2	6	3	2	4	27
621	1	1	7	3	9	6	4	7	6	8	52
Total	1,791	1,897	2,119	2,215	2,102	2,079	2,078	2,157	2,078	1,948	2,0464

Table 2b: All injury accidents (involving at least 1 HGV) on A(M) roads by year

'A (M)'	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
1	42	46	53	59	63	68	55	41	51	63	541
3	1	1	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	9
38	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
66	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
74	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
194	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	9
308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
404	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	6
627	2	5	5	3	2	1	3	2	0	2	25
Total	49	53	61	65	69	74	62	48	54	68	603

Sea Rescue: Pay

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average salary of coastguards in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England was in each year since 1979. [205619]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information is only available for 2002 onwards.

The average basic wage for the different grades of Coastguards for those who work in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England is in the following tables.

(a) Cornwall

Grade Name	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Coastguard Watch Asst	10,876	12,934	13,074	12,870	13,630	13,752	13,887
Watch Officer	15,912	15,837	16,331	16,337	17,082	16,468	15,911
Sector Manager	19,379	20,058	21,923	22,863	23,799	24,589	24,630
Watch Manager	21,219	22,959	20,972	22,522	23,356	24,044	24,044
RCC Manager	26,823	26,168	24,488	26,124	27,438	28,705	28,705

(b) South West

Grade Name	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Coastguard Watch Asst	10,789	12,353	12,858	13,116	13,330	13,512	13,557
Watch Officer	14,982	15,748	16,345	16,325	16,610	16,742	16,380
Sector Manager	19,532	21,110	22,312	22,202	23,346	23,527	23,025
Watch Manager	19,964	22,034	20,462	21,646	22,805	23,017	22,794
RCC Manager	26,370	25,040	24,783	26,230	27,438	28,478	28,478

(c) England

Grade Name	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Coastguard Watch Asst	10,690	11,955	12,606	12,881	13,069	13,399	13,417
Watch Officer	14,770	15,515	15,977	16,426	16,415	16,769	16,498
Sector Manager	19,991	21,302	21,693	22,479	22,740	22,954	22,986
Watch Manager	20,137	22,167	21,655	22,518	22,637	23,508	23,286
RCC Manager	25,175	25,795	26,089	26,652	27,796	27,673	26,997

In addition to these salaries, a 25 per cent. coastguard allowance is paid to coastguard watch assistants, watch officers and watch managers, a 15 per cent. coastguard allowance to sector managers and an on call allowance to RCC managers.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the longest period of time between the receipt of an application for child benefit and the determination of that application has been in 2008 to date; and if he will make a statement. [206099]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, in the year 2007-08 almost 65 per cent. of claims were decided within five working days and 94 per cent. were decided within 36 working days.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 817-8W, on Council Tax: Valuation, whether a statutory gateway will be introduced. [205523]

Jane Kennedy: Statutory gateways exist in so far as they are provided by Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 and other legislative provisions. This Department has no current plans to introduce further gateways.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the change in tax revenues which would occur if incomes at £100,000 or above were taxed at a marginal rate of 50 per cent. in 2008-09. [205252]

Jane Kennedy: The estimate of extra revenue if incomes at £100,000 or above were charged at 50 per cent. would be around £7.9 billion for 2008-09. This figure excludes any estimate of behavioural response which could be significant given the scale of the change.

This estimate is based on the 2005-06 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward using Budget 2008 assumptions and includes changes announced in Budget 2007.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his proposals to compensate those who lost out as a result of the abolition of the 10p tax rate will extend to people over the age of 65 years; and if he will make a statement. [206287]

Jane Kennedy: In Budget 2007, the Government announced an increase the age-related allowances for taxpayers aged 65 or over of £1,180 above indexation from April 2008. This is worth £236 a year to people benefiting in full from the age-related allowances, greater than the £232 a year maximum loss from the withdrawal of the 10p rate.

Liam Byrne

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the ministerial responsibilities of the hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill are within his Department. [204504]

Mr. Darling: My hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) is the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration (Home Office) and Minister of State with responsibility for revenue protection at the border (HM Treasury).

As a Treasury Minister my hon. Friend is responsible for the operational delivery of the UK Border Agency's (UKBA) revenue protection functions, delivery of targets covering revenue protection and the examination of goods at the frontier. my hon. Friend works closely with his Treasury ministerial colleagues to shape effective operational policy, based on the UKBA's experience of implementation.

Northern Rock

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what progress has been made in appointing a valuer as laid down in the draft Northern Rock plc Compensation Scheme Order 2008; [205538]

(2) when he will appoint a valuer as laid down in the draft Northern Rock plc Compensation Scheme Order 2008. [205539]

Kitty Ussher: The position of independent valuer to assess any compensation for those affected by the transfer of Northern Rock into public ownership will be advertised shortly.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the statement by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury in the Delegated Legislation Committee on the draft Northern Rock plc Compensation Scheme Order on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 7, what timetable has been set for the completion of the valuation of Northern Rock. [205614]

Kitty Ussher: We will of course wish to ensure that the valuer is suitably qualified and resourced to undertake his assessment of the amount of any compensation effectively and expeditiously. The valuer must, however, be independent and so the Government cannot prescribe a timetable.

Real Estate Investment Trusts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what companies have formed real estate investment trusts under the provisions of the Finance Act 2006. [206198]

Kitty Ussher: There are now 19 Real Estate Investment Trusts. The names of the companies are not disclosed as to do so would breach taxpayer confidentiality: it is not HMRC's practice to disclose information relating to the tax status of individual taxpayers.

Real Estate Investment Trusts: Fees and Charges

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what initial fees have been collected from companies forming real estate investment trusts under the provisions of the Finance Act 2006. [206197]

Kitty Ussher: HMRC does not publish information relating to tax paid by individual taxpayers. Given the small number of companies involved, disclosure of information relating to the entry charge paid so far by Real Estate Investment Trusts would be likely to result in a breach of taxpayer confidentiality.

Revenue and Customs: Secondment

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what access HM Revenue and Customs staff seconded to the Child Support Agency have to HM Revenue and Customs data systems while on secondment; and if he will make a statement. [206097]

Jane Kennedy: None.

Tax Allowances

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of raising the personal taxation allowance in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 by (i) 10 per cent. and (ii) 20 per cent. [205253]

Jane Kennedy: The cost of increasing all income tax personal allowances by 10 per cent. is regularly published, with latest estimates available in Table 1.6 "Direct effects of illustrative tax changes" on the HM Revenue and Customs' website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm

Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the basis is for the rate of increase for each of the taxes and allowances which are uprated on an annual basis. [205513]

Jane Kennedy: The basis for the annual uprating of taxes and allowances is set out in paragraph A.2.5 (page 131) of the Budget 2008 publication (HC 388).

Welfare Tax Credits: Mentally Ill

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to support people with mental health problems who are on low incomes to gain access to affordable credit; and if he will make a statement. [205359]

Kitty Ussher: The Government have a range of programmes to provide assistance to those with mental health problems, including outreach services, and is developing a National Strategy for Mental Health and Work to improve the employment chances of those with a mental health condition. In addition, many people on low incomes, and particularly those from vulnerable groups, are unable to access sources of affordable credit that meet their needs. The Government are therefore committed to increasing the supply of affordable credit from credit unions and has allocated £80 million over five years (2006-11) as a Growth Fund to support credit unions and other third sector lenders. Funded organisations have provided more than 70,000 loans to financially excluded customers, including those from vulnerable groups, since 2006. In addition, "Financial inclusion: an action plan for 2008-11", published in December 2007, announced a commitment from the high street banks to support third sector affordable credit, including actions to develop new provision in 25 high priority areas.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 28 April 2008

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Television Screens

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191022]

[Official Report, 11 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 322W.]

Letter from Margaret Hodge:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 11 March 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Margaret Hodge: In the last 24 months my Department has purchased one plasma television screen at a cost of £2,715.31 inc VAT. The cost covered purchase and installation.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 29 April 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government: Consent Regions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the consent regimes for local authorities that are overseen by the government offices for the regions. [182092]

[Official Report, 31 January 2008, Vol. 471, c. 586W.]

Letter from Parmjit Dhanda:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 31 January 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Dhanda: The consent regimes for local authorities that are currently overseen by the Government Offices for the Regions are:

Listed Building Consents (Local Planning Authority's (LPA) own applications)

Conservation Area Consents

Less-than-best Price Disposals

Allotments Disposals

While not strictly LPA consent cases, the Government Office Network also discharges the respective Secretaries of State's statutory functions in respect of the following matters:

Private Listed Building Notifications

Redundant Churches

Redemption of Rent Charges

Urgent Crown Developments

Environmental Impact Assessments (Screening and Scoping Directions)

Tree Preservation Order Appeals (the Planning Inspectorate will deal with these from 1 April 2008)

Definitive map appeals and directions:

Traffic Regulation Orders

Article 4 Directions

Completion Notices

Modification Orders

Revocation Orders

Discontinuance Orders

1938 Green Belt Act

Road Signage

Cycle Track Orders

Road Reclassifications.

TRANSPORT

M6 (New Junctions)

Mr. Harris: I can confirm that there are no plans to impose a toll on the M56.

[Official Report, 22 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 1174.]

Letter from Tom Harris:

An error has been identified in an answer given to the hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard) in the course of Oral Questions to the Secretary of State for Transport on 22 April 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Tom Harris: I can confirm that there are no plans to impose a toll on the M54.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 30 April 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on translation services by his Department, associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* to date in 2007-08. [187993]

[Official Report, 6 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 2689W.]

Letter from Shaun Woodward:

An error has been identified in the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 6 March 2008: The correct answer, detailing expenditure by the Northern Ireland Office is as follows:

Mr. Woodward: The following amounts were spent by the Northern Ireland Office, its associated agencies and non-departmental bodies on translation services:

(a) 2003-04: £115,001.83

(b) 2004-05: £257,878.70

(c) 2005-06: £527,454.57

(d) 2006-07: £912,123.00

(e) to date in 2007-08: the return has not been completed for this period yet but as soon as the figures become available we shall provide the hon. Member with this information.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central government grant per head was paid to each *(a)* county council and *(b)* unitary authority in England excluding grant to police authorities and local education authorities in the last financial year for which figures are available. [200845]

[Official Report, 28 April 2008, Vol. 475, c. 70W.]

Letter from John Healey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 28 April 2008. The correct answer should have been:

John Healey: The amount of central Government funding paid to each county council and unitary authority excluding grant to police authorities and local education authorities in any financial year is zero because county councils and unitary authorities are all local education authorities.

TREASURY

Finance Bill

Angela Eagle: In addition, VED is part of a package of measures that support the European Union 2012 proposal to reduce average new car CO_2 emissions to 130g per kilometre, which could save as much as an additional 800 tonnes of CO_2 per year by 2020.

[Official Report, 29 April 2008, Vol. 475, c. 264.]

Letter from Angela Eagle:

I should have said, and intended to say, in my speech during the Committee of the whole House on the Finance Bill that VED is part of measures

"which could save as much as an additional 8 million tonnes of CO_2 per year by 2020."

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 1 May 2008

HEALTH

Skin Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of melanoma have been reported in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [174681]

[Official Report, 8 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 486-94W.]

Letter from Tom Watson:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 8 January 2008.

The errors made in the answer were as follows:

The North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust figures appeared twice in the Table i.e. under the Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) of West Midlands and (erroneously) South West.

Kirklees Primary Care Trust figures were omitted from the Yorkshire and The Humber SHA.

However, the overall annual figures for England remained correct. A letter has been sent to the hon. Member.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 15 May 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Publications

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date his Department published the Households Below Average Income annual statistics in each of the last six years; and on what date he plans to publish the statistics for 2006-07. [199528]

[Official Report, 6 May 2008, Vol. 475, c. 807W.]

Letter from Stephen Timms:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke) on 6 May 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The publication dates of the last six sets of households below average income statistics are given in the following table.

This year's statistics will be published in June. Publication has been delayed by additional validation and quality assurance checks of the data set. The date of publication will be announced on the National Statistics website, in line with the National Statistics Code of Practice.

Households below average income publication	*Publication date*
1994-95 to 2000-01	11 April 2002
1994-95 to 2001-02	13 March 2003
1994-95 to 2002-03	30 March 2004
1994-95 to 2003-04	30 March 2005
1994-95 to 2004-05	9 March 2006
1994-95 to 2005-06	27 March 2007
1994-95 to 2005-06 (revised edition)	22 May 2007